



In Summary

Water generated by car washing can contain metals, degreasers, oils and detergents. Wash water runoff can transport these pollutants into a storm drain. These materials can degrade local waters when allowed to flow into our storm drain system. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant. This water ultimately flows into our creeks and tributaries.

In addition, if you are caught allowing anything but rain into the storm drain, you could be subject to severe penalties and/or fines, plus the cost of cleanup.

We need to stop stormwater pollution at the source.



Remember:

Only Rain In the Storm Drain

Contact Information

To report a spill during regular business hours call the Public Works and Water Resources Department at 302-366-7000.

After hours call 911 or contact the DNREC Emergency Response Hotline at 1-800-662-8802.

Or go to the city's website, expand the "How Do I?" drop down menu, click "Report Spills or Discharge Concerns" and report the spill.

For waste disposal and recycling questions call the Delaware Solid Waste Authority Citizens Response Line at 1-800-404-7080.

For general stormwater program information contact the Stormwater Program Coordinator at 302-366-7000 or visit our website at:

<http://www.newarkde.gov/237/NPDES-Stormwater-Program>

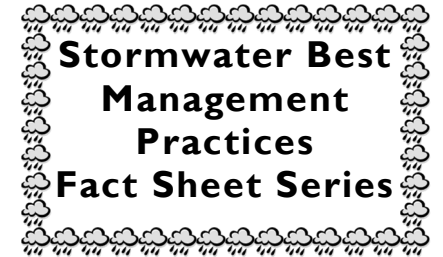


The City of Newark
Public Works and Water Resources
Department
220 South Main Street
Newark, DE 19711



Car Washing

City of Newark
Public Works and
Water Resources



Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

Car Washing

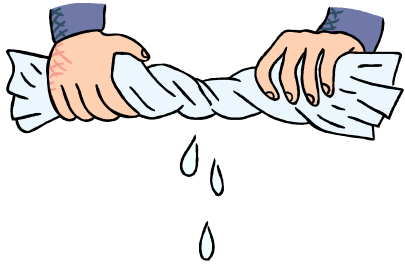


This brochure has been prepared to educate the general public about recommended car washing practices in order to protect water quality in storm drains, and ultimately, the creeks and tributaries in Newark.

Why should I care about Stormwater?







This brochure is intended to educate the general public about recommended car washing practices, which minimize the potential for water quality degradation.

Water that flows into the storm sewer system does not get treated at the waste water treatment plant. It flows through a series of pipes and discharges either directly or indirectly into our creeks and tributaries. To minimize the potential for water quality problems, we need to work together to clean up our stormwater at the source.






Before you allow anything to flow into a storm drain, stop and think about how the water ultimately flows untreated into the creeks and tributaries in Newark.

Car Washing Tips

-  Use a commercial car washing facility. Many commercial facilities recycle their water or treat it before discharging it to the sanitary sewer system.
-  If using a commercial facility is not possible, then wash the car on gravel, grass or other area able to absorb the wash water.
-  Only use detergents and soaps that say “biodegradable” or “phosphate free”.
-  Use specialty cleaning solutions, such as wheel cleaners, in very small quantities if at all. These products can contain harmful chemicals when allowed to flow into our creeks.
-  Wring sponges and wash rags into buckets, not onto the ground. This helps cut down on the amount of water discharged.
-  Try to minimize the amount of water used washing cars by using nozzles and buckets, and by turning off the hose when not in use.

Car Washing Tips

-  Be aware that the use of a high pressure hose, instead of a low pressure hose, can remove additional pollutants which should be prevented from entering our storm drain system.
-  Vacuum car interiors, don't shake the dirt and grime from floor mats onto the ground. This helps prevent washing into the storm drain system.
-  When cleaning the car interior, make sure all waste paper, trash, and cups are properly disposed of in the trash or recycled.

