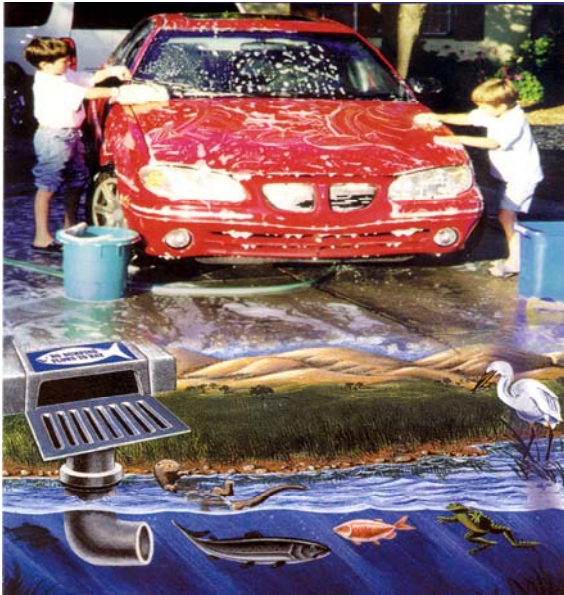




# Car Washing - the Fish-Friendly Way!



## Is there a problem with residential car washing?

There's no problem with washing a car, **IF** you take into consideration **HOW** and **WHERE** you do it! Soap - even the biodegradable type - is lethal to fish and other aquatic life in relatively small doses.

When you wash your car on the street or driveway, the soap - together with dirt and oil washed from your car - flows into nearby storm drains. These storm drains flow directly into local creeks, wetlands, the Bay or Ocean.

## So How CAN I Wash My Car?

- ⇒ Take it to a [commercial car wash](#) where the water is "cleaned" before being discharged to the environment. Most commercial car washes use 60% less water for the entire process than a homeowner uses just to rinse the car!
- ⇒ If you **MUST** wash your car exterior at home, use soap sparingly in a bucket of water. Toss the dirty water onto a landscaped area or down an indoor drain that is linked to a sanitary sewer. If you need to clean your engine, take your car to a commercial car wash or auto detailing business.
- ⇒ When washing your car, use a "trigger" nozzle to save water.
- ⇒ Wash your vehicle on a grassy or dirt area where the soil can filter some of the pollutants.

## If you plan to hold a car wash fundraiser:

Borrow a [Fish-Friendly Car Wash kit from MCSTOPPP](#)! The kit contains everything you need to hold a car wash without hurting the fish or our creeks!

Call MCSTOPPP and reserve a kit for your next car wash fundraiser—or find out how to make your own kit:

415-473-3202

Email: [mcstoppp@marincounty.org](mailto:mcstoppp@marincounty.org)



**Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program \* [www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org)**