



**A
Clean Environment
is
Important
to
All of Us!**

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants?

The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries, flow directly into the creeks, lakes, lagoons, and ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution, such as industrial waters from factories, have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs because of residential and commercial activities that produce a variety of contaminants: oil from cars; wash water from restaurants; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; waste from failing septic tanks; wash water from residential car washing; and waste from pets.

Without proper prevention measures called Best Management Practices (BMP's), all of these contaminants can be carried by rain water into the storm drains and then into nearby and more distant waterways. To keep our water clean, each of us can make small changes that, together, add up to major pollution solutions!



**City of Escondido
Utilities Department/Storm Water
201 N. Broadway
Escondido,
CA 92025**

**Storm Water Hotline:
760-839-4668**

A graphic featuring a large, stylized blue water drop on the left. To its right, the text 'Only Rain in the Storm Drain!' is written in a blue, cursive font.



RESIDENTIAL CAR WASHING



Best Management Practices

CITY of ESCONDIDO Storm Water Program

*Working With The Community
To Comply With The
State-Regulated
Storm Water Permit*

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Car washing contributes to storm water pollution by allowing soap that contains phosphates and other street pollutants, such as debris and oil residue, to enter the storm drain conveyance system with the water runoff.

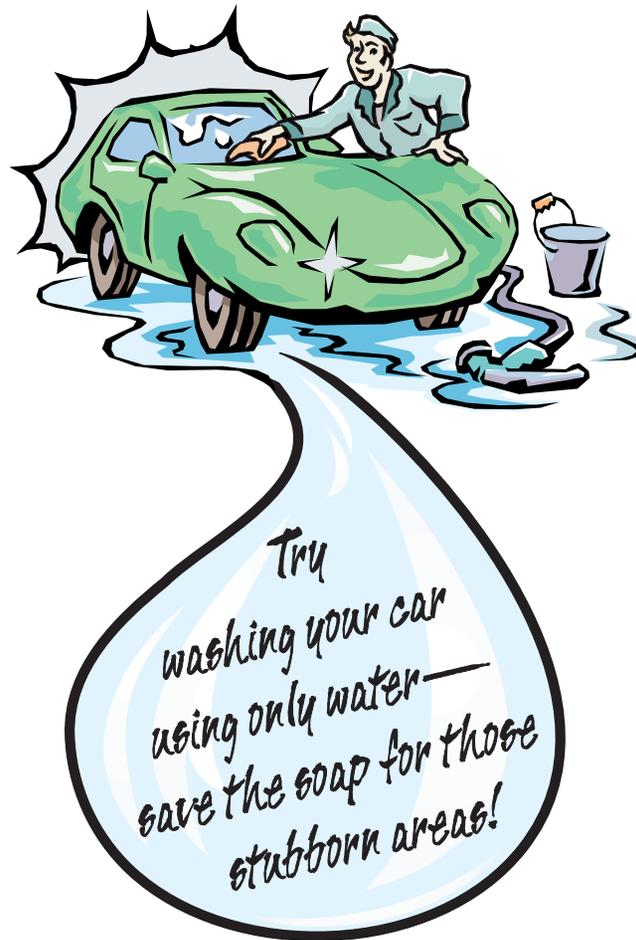
A commercial car wash recycles the water and drains it into the sanitary sewer system.

The following section lists some recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system.

If feasible, wash the vehicle on a porous surface such as your landscape. The soap will not harm the plants.

Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle. Not only do you reduce water runoff, but you help conserve water.

Empty the dirty wash water onto a landscaped or other porous area, or into your sink drain.



Use biodegradable soap, which can be identified by manufacturers' labels.

Use a bucket and a rag.

Hire only mobile detail operators that capture wash water and chemicals. It is unlawful for commercial vehicle washing operators to allow wash water to enter the storm drain system.

