

What is an Illicit Discharge?

Illicit discharges are generally any discharge into a storm drain system this is not composed entirely of stormwater. The exceptions include water from fire fighting activities and discharges from facilities already under an NPDES permit. Illicit discharges are a problem because, unlike wastewater which flows to a wastewater treatment plant, stormwater generally flows to waterways without any additional treatment. Illicit discharges often include pathogens, nutrients, surfactants, and various toxic pollutants.



Grays Harbor Stream Team

"A coalition of students, educators, citizen volunteers, local agencies, and non-profit organizations dedicated to the protection and restoration of streams that flow through Grays Harbor County."



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City of Aberdeen



Car Washing Informational Brochure



Car Washing is Harmful to Waterways

Outdoor car washing results in large amounts of dirt, road grime, oil, nutrients, and heavy metals flowing into waterways. The detergent-rich water used to wash the grim off our cars flows down the street, into the storm drain, and into the nearest body of water. Small concentrations of detergents in our streams can kill fish and their eggs, as well as inhibit their ability to reproduce. Detergents also add to the problems of aquatic life by lowering the surface tension of water. Fish then much more readily absorb organic chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers. Detergents can destroy the fish's external mucus layers that protect them from bacteria and parasites and they severely damage the fish's gills.



Home Car Washing Tips

- Wash your car on the lawn or gravel where water can soak into and be filtered by the soil
- Look for soaps that are non-toxic, biodegradable, phosphate-free and that are vegetable or citrus based. Avoid soaps with labels reading Caution, Danger, or Warning.
- After washing, dispose of bucket contents into the sewer system such as toilets and sinks.

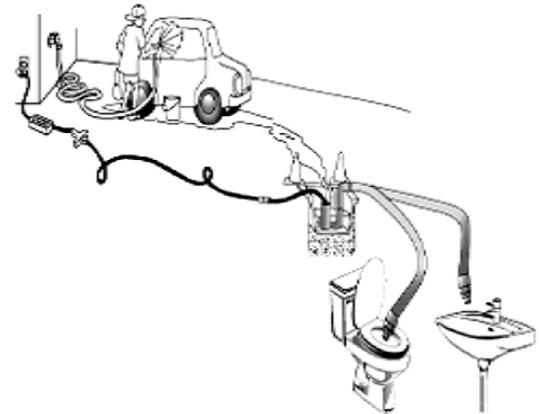
Commercial Car Wash

Using a self-service wash bay or commercial car wash is more environmentally friendly than washing your vehicle in your driveway or street. Most car wash facilities discharge their wastewater into the sewer system, and also use less water than a home wash.

Type of wash	Gallons per car
Self-service	8-18
Conveyor wash	14-60
In-bay automatic	10-50
Home car wash	16-180

Car Washing Kits

Clean Bay Car Wash kits work by directing the soapy, grimy water to the wastewater system, where it gets treated to remove toxins before being released into local waterways. Without the car wash kits, dirty water from car washes falls into storm drains and flows untreated into our waterways. Toxins from the dirty water can harm fish and other organisms.



The City of Aberdeen has these car wash kits available for use during fundraisers or other events. If you wish to use one of these kits, contact Jeff Springer at (360) 537-3393 or Rick Sangder at (360) 537-3241.