



# Stormwater Pollution Best Management Practices

## Tips for Protecting Our Water Resources from Stormwater Pollution

Common household activities can contribute significantly to stormwater pollution. Proper handling and care of many of the materials that we use daily can greatly reduce pollution. Follow these best management practices to protect the water resources in your community.

### Automobile Washing

Automobile washing has the ability to contribute to stormwater pollution in several ways. Road dust washed from vehicles may contain metals and hydrocarbons. Caked dirt and grime from an automobile increases the sediment load to the storm drain system. Any leaking fluids can be washed from the automobile and carried directly into the stormwater system. Many of the soaps used for automobile washing contain phosphorus and foaming agents, which are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. The pollution prevention activities outlined below can be used to prevent the discharge of pollutants into our water resources.



When possible, use a commercial car wash that filters and recycles their wash water. When not possible, follow these guidelines:

- Choose soaps and cleaners that are “non-toxic”, “phosphate free”, and/or “biodegradable”.
- Shake floor mats into a trashcan or vacuum to clean. Do not shake over the ground.
- Divert runoff from washing to a grassy surface large enough to contain and completely infiltrate the water.
- Dispose of used wash water and soap onto a grassy area that will allow for infiltration, or dispose of wash water in the sanitary sewer via a sink or toilet.
- If using additional cleaners such as acid based wheel cleaners, use a rag to wipe them on and off instead of rinsing with water.
- Conduct engine degreasing at a commercial facility that collects and treats any runoff or discharges to the sanitary sewer system.

**For more information regarding our water resources:**

City of Tumwater Water Resources  
(360) 754-4140 or visit our website

[www.ci.tumwater.wa.us](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us)