

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns. Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.
Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

HOW DO COMMERCIAL CAR WASHES CONTRIBUTE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- Runoff of toxic chemicals such as hydrofluoric acid, phosphates from detergents, lubricants and oil.
- Debris and sediments washed from vehicles.
- Litter.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):

Behaviors and practices used by individuals and businesses to prevent or reduce stormwater pollution impacts.



CHEMICAL USE

- Use sparingly and don't allow chemicals, lubricants and oils to spill out of containers.



CONTROL LITTER

- Pick up any litter in and around the car wash to keep it from entering storm drains and nearby waterways.



ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

- If your car wash has a grit trap, have it cleaned regularly, with sludge properly handled and disposed of.



EDUCATE STAFF

- Check out the EPA's safer choice guide for products www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products



ECO FRIENDLY DETERGENT

- Use biodegradable, phosphate free, fragrance free and dye free detergents.



CHEMICAL DISPOSAL

- Properly dispose of unused chemicals.

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