



CHARITY CARWASH FACT SHEET

Water does not disappear when it goes into the street. It usually enters a storm drain inlet, and then flows to our creeks, rivers, and lakes. Soap, oil, and grease are pollutants that are commonly associated with water from carwash events. The amount of these pollutants entering our waterways can be reduced by doing the following:

- ❑ Use the smallest amount of soap necessary. Use “elbow grease” to clean the vehicles instead of more soap. It will mean more profit for your group.
- ❑ Use powdered laundry detergents or other soap that contains no phosphates. High phosphate levels support over-production of algae and water plants. As plant growth explodes, it chokes off the oxygen supply normally shared with other organisms living in the water. When the plants die, their decomposition uses up even more oxygen. As a result, fish suffocate and die, and bacterial activity decreases. This is known as eutrophication.
- ❑ Use the least amount of water necessary. Use buckets for soapy water to "resoap" rags and sponges rather than adding soap directly to them (this helps avoid contaminating runoff, and saves soap as well). Wring sponges and rags into buckets, not onto the ground.
- ❑ Buckets of soapy water should be drained into the sanitary sewer. Disposal can be made to an inside drain (sink or toilet) or clean out with permission of the property owner. Do not empty soap buckets onto the parking lot, street gutter or into storm drains.
- ❑ Use fine spray nozzles for the finish rinse.
- ❑ Drain the water from washing vehicles to a grassy area so pollutants are filtered out of the water before it enters the storm drain system. If no grassy area is available, then capture all the water and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer.
- ❑ Put a shut-off or spray nozzle on the hose so you can turn off the hose when it is not in use.
- ❑ Consider using rented pressure-washing equipment. High pressure/low volume equipment uses less than one-tenth of the water conventional techniques do.

Partners for A Clean Environment (PACE) is a voluntary, non-regulatory program coordinated by the City of Tulsa Public Works and Development Department. The program, which recognizes those who go above and beyond environmental regulations, is administered by the Quality Assurance section of the Environmental Operations Division. PACE provides free pollution prevention training, public outreach, and technical assistance to those who have made a commitment to the environment. The program's goal is to reduce the use of hazardous materials and the amount of waste from business, government, and household activities that pollute Tulsa's water, land, and air.

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