

Car Washing

It's extremely important for all of us to keep Tulsa's environment healthy by ensuring water that flows into our storm drains is clean. Allowing substances such as motor oil, antifreeze, or even soap to flow into storm drains will pollute water that flows to local waterways.

Commercial car-wash businesses and car lots are subject to the Oklahoma Pollution Discharge Elimination System issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. However, residential and charity car-wash events generating wastewater are currently exempt by the pollution ordinance. Even though these individuals are exempt from the pollution ordinance, it is best if they follow the below guidelines to ensure Tulsa's environment remain pollutant-free.

All Car-Washing Activities Should Follow These Best Management Practices:

- Wash your car directly over your lawn or make sure the wash-water drains to a vegetated area. This allows the wash water to soak into the ground instead of running off into a local body of water.
- Ideally, no soaps or detergents should be used, but if you do use one, *select one without phosphates*.
- Sweep driveways and street gutters before washing your vehicle to remove dirt, leaves, trash and other materials that may flow into the storm drain along with your wash-water. This helps reduce storm drain maintenance costs as well as protect water quality.
- **Never** wash the motor or the under-hood area of your vehicle and allow that wastewater to drain into the storm-sewer system.
- Commercial products are available that allow you to clean a vehicle without water. These were developed for areas where water is scarce, so a water-saving benefit is realized, as well as reduced pollution.
- If unused car-cleaning chemicals are leftover disposing of them correctly is imperative. It is against the law to dispose of chemicals down the storm sewer system. To dispose of unused chemicals correctly (from non-business generated waste only) please call 918-596-2100 to schedule a free appointment to drop off chemicals at Tulsa's Household Pollutant Collection Facility. For a list of businesses that take unwanted commercial chemicals, visit: www.cityoftulsa.org/resourcerecovery

All Waters Generated by the Washing of Vehicles are Considered Wastewaters by the City of Tulsa and are Regulated by the Following Ordinances.

Name	Sewer System	Ordinance	Internet Address
Pollution	Storm	Title 11-A, Chapter 5	http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx
Sewer Use	Sanitary	Title 11-C, Chapter 12	http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx

BMPs are an important tool in helping the City of Tulsa remain a vibrant and healthy place to live and work. They also help the city maintain compliance with its Stormwater Quality Permit.