

Planning a Car Wash Fundraiser?

Charity car wash events need to include protection of the storm drain system to prevent pollution from entering creeks and rivers. To stop pollution from entering our storm drains, use best management practices that are included in this brochure to ensure that your car washing event does not pollute the environment. Please follow these steps before conducting your car washing event:

Step 1: Contact Public Works to borrow a car wash kit to discharge your wash water to the appropriate sanitary drain or vegetated area. Fill out all liability release forms required to borrow the car wash kit. There is a \$25 deposit fee that will be refunded when the kit is returned.

Step 2: Obtain permission from the owner of the event location to conduct a car wash event and locate an approved sanitary drain or vegetated area to discharge your wash water.

Step 3: If you plan on using a fire hydrant for your water source, check out a water meter and back flow preventer from Public Works and arrange for them to be installed on the fire hydrant.

Step 4: Read the enclosed directions of how to use the car washing kit appropriately.

Step 5: At the end of your event, return the car washing kit to the City of Kalispell Public Works Department.



Remember...

***Only rain down the drain.
It's illegal to dispose of waste
down the storm drain!***



**City of Kalispell
Public Works Department**

**Fundraiser
SudSafe™
Car Wash
Kit**



What's the Problem with Car Washing?

During a car wash, dirty water containing soap and detergents, residues from exhaust fumes, gasoline and motor oils washes off the cars, flows off the pavement and into nearby storm drains.

Unlike the water we use in our homes and businesses which is treated at wastewater treatment plants, the water that goes into storm drains flows directly into rivers, streams, oceans and lakes without any kind of treatment.

Alone, one car wash fundraiser event will create little, adverse environmental impact. But, collectively, car wash fundraiser events contribute significant amounts of water pollution.



Recommendations for Pollution Prevention at Your Car Wash

Wring sponges and wash rags into buckets, not onto the ground.

Shake car mats into a trash can or vacuum them off. Do not shake dirt from car mats directly onto the ground.

Clean up the site after the event. Have volunteers walk the perimeter of the site location picking up any trash and debris and dispose of it properly.

What's in the Car Wash Kit?

- ◇ Submersible Pump
- ◇ Tub insert with gasket
- ◇ GFCI shock protection cord
- ◇ Extension cord
- ◇ Two safety cones
- ◇ 100' commercial grade hose
- ◇ Grate Hook
- ◇ Instruction Sheet
- ◇ Storage bag

Any organization borrowing the kit will need to provide its own washing materials (soap, sponges, towels) and find its own location that includes a water source, an electrical outlet, and an appropriate discharge location for the wash water —either a sanitary hookup or a vegetated area.

Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.

Storm Drains are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into rivers and streams. These are typically the drains found in streets and parking lots.

Sanitary Sewers collect waste water from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes pollutants from waste water before it is discharged to the river.

Where to borrow a car wash kit:

City of Kalispell
Public Works Department
201 1st Avenue East
(406) 758-7859
rwargo@kalispell.com

