



Fundraising Carwashes

Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Before the Carwash

- When choosing a location, consider how carwash wastewater will be managed during the fundraiser carwash event. Wastewater should be diverted away from any storm drain inlets and either:
 - Discharged to landscaping, gravel, or soil provided that (1) there is enough surface area to completely absorb all the wastewater without creating runoff; (2) it does not produce excessive pooling; (3) you have the property owners permission; or
 - Divert the carwash wastewater to a sewer clean-out if one is accessible.
- Purchase soap products labeled “non-toxic,” “phosphate free,” and “biodegradable.” Please note, even biodegradable and non-toxic soaps are harmful to aquatic life and water quality, and must be kept out of the storm drain system.

At the Carwash

- Prior to starting the event, hold a meeting with all participants to explain procedures that must be followed during the carwash.
- Conserve water and minimize the amount of wastewater by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off.
- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to re-soap rags or sponges throughout the carwash rather than adding more soap directly to rags or sponges.
- Wring sponges and rags into buckets, not onto the ground.
- Always empty buckets of wastewater into the sanitary sewer system via sinks, toilets, or sanitary sewer clean-out, or onto landscaped areas where the wastewater can be absorbed.

After the Carwash

- Clean up the site – Have a volunteer walk the perimeter of the site to pick up trash and dispose of it in a trash container.

*Remember -- Only rain belongs
down the storm drain*

For more information
call 707-678-7051 x 4103

