



**Murfreesboro  
Water and Sewer Department**

Stormwater Management

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<http://www.murfreesborotn.gov>

Storm drains do not go to the sewer system; they flow directly into rivers, streams, creeks, wetlands.

If you are found discharging pollutants, or are allowing the discharge of pollutants, from your property into storm sewers maintained by the city of Murfreesboro, you may be subject to fines and penalties.

Discharging pollutants directly or indirectly into streams can be even more costly.

For more information about managing water entering storm drains, visit our website:

<http://www.murfreesborotn.gov>



**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**  
*for*  
**CAR WASHES**

**FUNDRAISERS & RESIDENTIAL**



**MURFREESBORO**  
**STORMWATER**  
**PROGRAM**

*improving the quality of local streams*

Everybody takes pride in a clean vehicle.

Whether you are washing a personal car in your driveway or participating in a local fundraiser, if not done in an appropriate manner, car



Lytle Creek

washing can pollute local waterways.

Unfortunately washing vehicles in a bad location can cause water pollution. Washing a vehicle near a storm drain causes the wash water to flow directly to a nearby waterway. This wash water can contain contaminants that can be harmful to aquatic life. The location of a car wash can be an important tool in maintaining good water quality.



The best way to minimize the effect washing your car has on the environment is to use a commercial car wash. Most locations reuse wash water several times before sending it to a treatment plant. The only way to ensure that wash water from a car wash doesn't enter a waterway is to use a professional car wash.



However if you do choose to wash your car on pavement or at home, these are some things that you can do to minimize the water quality impact:

- ◆ Use biodegradable, phosphate-free water-based cleaners only. Clay-based dry methods use very little water.
- ◆ Minimize water usage, use a spray gun with flow restriction to minimize water usage and runoff.
- ◆ Wash on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel or grass. This can filter water before it enters groundwater, storm drains or creeks.
- ◆ Avoid washing cars on concrete or asphalt pavement unless it drains into a vegetated area.
- ◆ Only let wash water soak into the ground as long as you are using biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners.
- ◆ Empty wash buckets into sinks or toilets.