

## Best Management Practices

## For More Information

## Help Prevent Water Pollution

Wash water associated with community car washes could affect aquatic life in receiving waters (Dominguez Channel and the harbors). This brochure contains Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be followed when conducting during car wash fundraisers. Runoff from car wash fundraisers enters the storm drain system through catch basins such as the one below.

Wash water containing detergents can be harmful to aquatic life. The BMPs contained in this brochure are intended to reduce as much wash water as possible to catch basins.

To Report Dumping or Suspicious Fluids or Materials to Streets or Catch Basins

Call

[www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com)  
(24-7)

City of Gardena  
Reporting Hotline

(310)217-9528

## Best Management Practices Guidelines for Car Wash Fundraisers

## City of Gardena Stormwater Management Program



# Tips for Car Wash Fundraiser

## How does runoff from car wash fundraisers harm the environment?

During a car wash fundraiser, wash water containing soap and detergent, residues from exhaust fumes, brake pads, gasoline and motor oil washes off the cars, flows off the pavement and into nearby storm catch basins. Alone, one car wash fundraiser event may not create a significant adverse environmental impact. But, collectively, car wash fundraiser events can contribute significant amounts of wash water to the storm drain system.

## Before beginning your car wash fundraiser:

- Hold a meeting with all participants to explain the proper procedures that should be followed when conducting these activities.
- Remove all trash and debris from the car washing area.
- Use only soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled “non-toxic,”

- Select a site where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel, or be diverted to nearby landscaping. This will allow the wash water to filter through the vegetation and/or soil instead of flowing directly into the storm drain.
- If you select a site that drains into a street, block off the storm drain with sandbags and either divert the wash water to an area where the water can pool and evaporate throughout the day or arrange to dispose of the wash water down a sanitary sewer drain (with permission from the sanitation district).
- At the end of the day, remember to properly dispose of sandbags.

## During the car wash fundraiser:

- Shake car mats into a trash can or vacuum them. Do not shake dirt from car mats directly onto the ground.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to re-soap rags or sponges throughout the wash rather than adding more soap directly to rags or sponges.

## After the car wash fundraiser:

- Remember to clean up. Have a volunteer walk the perimeter of the site to pick up trash and debris and dispose of it properly.
- Before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain, stop and think. Storm drains do not go to the sewer, they flow directly into channels and creeks, through wetlands and to the ocean.

For additional Information

**City of Gardena  
Public Works Department  
(310)217-9528**



**Never let any chemical products or polluted wash water run off your yard and into the street or storm drain.**