

Vehicle Washing Ad

Many individuals take advantage of breaks in the cold weather to wash residual road salt off of their vehicles. With the onset of Spring, vehicle washing becomes commonplace. However, as the detergent-rich water used to wash dirt, grime and other materials off of our vehicles flows down the street and into the storm sewer system, this wash water has the potential to result in a high loads of nutrients, metals, and hydrocarbons being discharged to our local streams. Commercial vehicle wash facilities often recycle their water or are required to treat their wash water discharge prior to release to the sanitary sewer system, so most potential receiving stream water quality impacts from vehicle washing are from individual residents, fundraising groups performing charity vehicle washes and businesses that discharge wash water to the storm sewer system.

Here are some tips for residents and charity groups to minimize any potential stream receiving stream water quality impacts from vehicle washing:

- ❖ Use a commercial vehicle wash;
- ❖ Wash vehicles on gravel, grass, or other permeable surfaces;
- ❖ Divert vehicle wash water onto grass or landscaping to provide filtration;
- ❖ Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended;
- ❖ Use only biodegradable soaps.

In addition to the tips listed above, businesses with vehicle fleets should also follow the guidelines listed below to minimize potential receiving stream water quality impacts from vehicle washing:

- Fleet vehicle washing should be done in areas designed to collect and hold the wash water generated. Wash water should be recycled, or collected and possibly treated prior to being discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Please contact the Borough for further information regarding any type of wash water discharges to the sanitary sewer system.
- Pressure cleaning and steam cleaning should be completed in a manner which prevents runoff with high pollutant concentrations from being discharged to the storm sewer system.
- On-site storm drain locations should be mapped to avoid discharges to the storm sewer system.
- Spills should be immediately contained, mitigated and reported to the appropriate agencies in accordance with Federal, State or Local requirements.

The Township appreciates your voluntary cooperation with the suggested best management practices for vehicle washing described in this article.