

# CLEAN WATER BEGINS AT HOME



People often wash their cars in the driveway or on the street. The water used typically flows to a storm drain or ditch, leading directly to the nearest stream, lake, or groundwater supply. Soaps and detergents, even biodegradable ones, can have immediate and long-term effects on fish, frogs, and insects living in waterbodies. The grime washed off the car also contains pollutants that can harm fish and wildlife. SO PLEASE...

- Don't wash your car if rain is expected.
- Consider not washing your car at home. Take it to a commercial car wash that has a recycle system and discharges wastewater into the sanitary sewer for treatment.
- Purchase products that allow you to clean a vehicle without water. (They were developed for areas where water is scarce, so you can save water and reduce pollution at the same time.)
- Wash your car directly on your lawn or make sure the water you used drains to a vegetated area where the water and soap can soak into the ground, trapping pollutants in the soil instead of running off into a water body.
- If you wash your vehicle on a driveway or in the street, be sure to sweep the area to clean up dirt, leaves, trash, and materials that may flow into the storm drain with your wash water. This helps reduce maintenance costs and protects water quality as well. If you do use soaps and detergents, select a product without phosphates.
- Use a nozzle on your hose to save water

For more information call (360) 342-5070 or check out our website at [www.cityofbg.org](http://www.cityofbg.org)

AUTOMOBILE WASHING

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

