



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Washwater, oil and residue from car washing should not flow into the street, gutter or storm drain. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump soap, oil or dirty water into the ocean, so don't let it enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)** or visit www.ocwatersheds.com

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline** at **1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)**

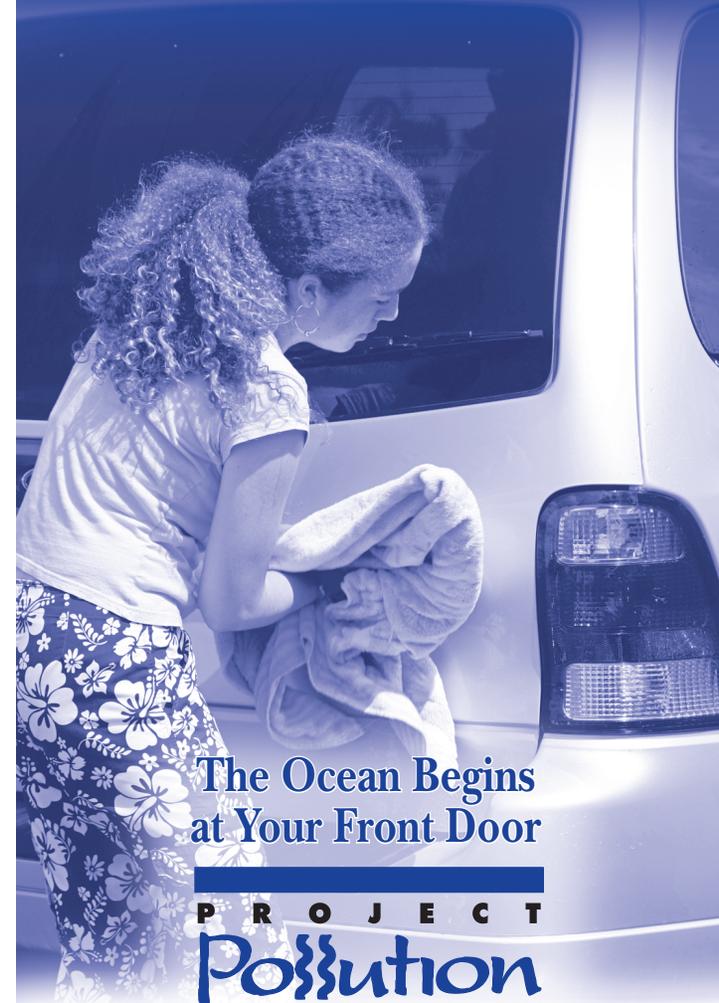
For emergencies, dial 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information about how you can keep soap, oil and washwater from car wash activities from entering the storm drain system. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representative or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Printed on Recycled Paper

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution: Tips for Car Wash Fund-Raisers



**The Ocean Begins
at Your Front Door**

**P R O J E C T
P o l l u t i o n
P R E V E N T I O N**

Tips for Car Wash Fund-Raisers

Before beginning your car wash fund-raiser

- Partner with a professional car wash and avoid the pollution that parking lot car washes can produce.



- Hold a meeting with all participants to explain the proper procedures that should be followed when washing cars.
- Remove all trash and debris from the car washing area.
- Select only soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled “non-toxic,” “phosphate-free,” or “biodegradable.” The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps. However, even these soaps can be toxic for the environment, so never let any products enter the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Do not use acid based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers.

- Select a site where the washwater can soak into grass, gravel, or be diverted to nearby landscaping. This will allow the washwater to filter through the vegetation and/or soil instead of flowing directly into a storm drain.
- Divert the washwater to an area where the water can pool and evaporate throughout the day, or arrange to dispose of the washwater down a sanitary sewer drain. For details, refer to Factsheet *IC24 Wastewater Disposal Guidelines* located at www.ocwatersheds.com/StormWater/documents_bmp_existing_development.asp#res
- If there is a storm drain on-site, block it with sandbags. At the end of the day, dispose of the sandbags by dumping the contents in an authorized landscaped area.



During the fund-raiser

- Never let any trash or washwater enter the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Shake car mats in 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 day rather than adding soap directly to them.
- Wring sponges and washrags into buckets, not the ground.
- Conserve water by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut-off. Turn off the water or kink the hose when not in use.
- Always empty buckets into the sanitary sewer system (e.g. sinks or toilets) or a landscaped area rather than pouring the water on concrete or asphalt.

After the fund-raiser

- Remember to clean up. Have a volunteer walk the perimeter of the site to pick up trash and debris and dispose of it properly.