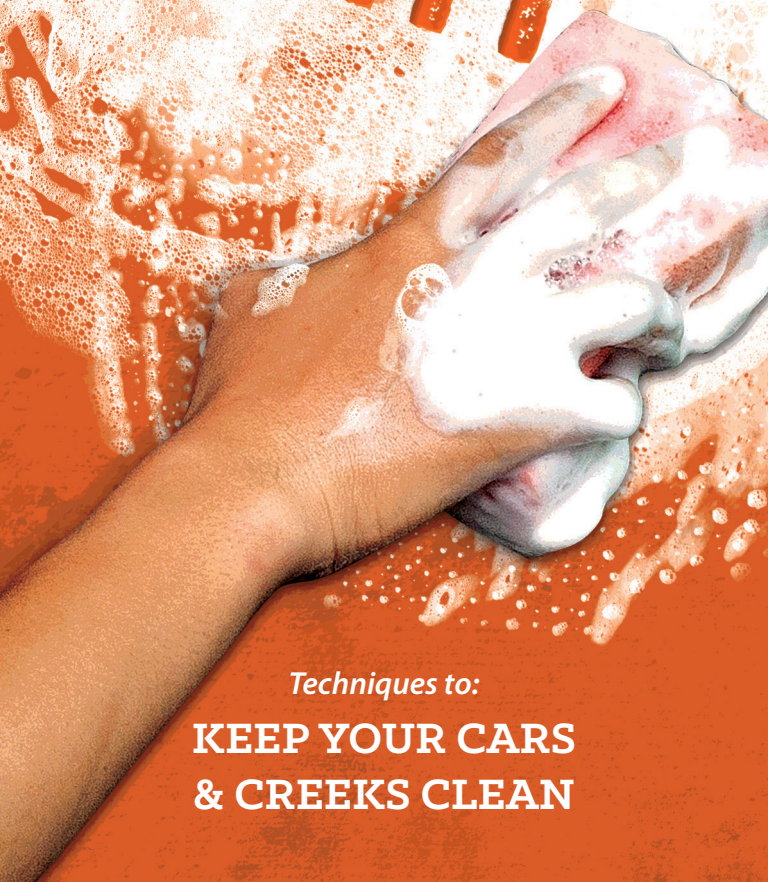


WASH RIGHT



Techniques to:

**KEEP YOUR CARS
& CREEKS CLEAN**



Puget Sound
Starts Here

STORMWATER IS NOT TREATED,

and carries pollution from streets and your property directly to the nearest creek, lake, or the Bay.

- Wash water cannot enter storm drains or ditches.*

USE A LOCAL CAR WASH

or wash on your lawn to protect our local waterways.

- Pollutants (including biodegradable soap) need to soak into the ground in order to break down.

CHARITY CAR WASHES

Call us for watershed-friendly car wash locations or to borrow a free car wash kit. These kits can be set up to catch water as it enters the storm drain and pump it to a nearby sink, toilet, or sewer connection.

WHAT'S THE HARM?

Car wash waste water contains many pollutants, such as:

- Metals which inhibit a fish's sense of smell, impacting their homing, feeding, and predator avoidance.
- Fine dust/dirt which can clog fish gills & smother their eggs.
- Soaps and cleaners which destroy the natural protections (like external mucus layers) fish have against bacteria and parasites and inhibit the ability of fish to reproduce.

IN 1 YEAR, IN 1 CITY OF SIMILAR SIZE,

car washing on streets and driveways washed these pollutants into Puget Sound waterways**:

- **169 gal.** of oils, grease and fuels
- **400 lbs.** of nitrogen and phosphorous
- **2200 lbs.** of surfactants (found in soaps & cleaners)
- **30,000 lbs.** of sediment (or 1.5 dump trucks full)

** Allowing anything other than rain water to enter storm drains is against the law. - Bellingham Municipal Code 15.42.050*

***Residential Car Washwater Monitoring Study, City of Federal Way, 2009*

HAVE QUESTIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HELP:

www.cob.org/cleanwater - (360) 778-7979

City of Bellingham Public Works - 2221 Pacific St., Bellingham, WA 98229.