

**WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY...**



**When you wash your car, all the soap, scum and oily grit runs along the curb and into storm drains, which lead ultimately to either the Christina or White Clay Creek. This causes pollution, which is unhealthy for people and fish. Please wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street or your driveway. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.**

Many thanks to the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma. If you would like more information call 302-366-7040.

**BE A PART OF THE POLLUTION SOLUTION!  
HELP CLEAN UP THE STORMWATER IN NEWARK.**

### **WHY?**

Clean water is of vital importance for our health, economy, and environment. It exists in very limited supply. All of us benefit from clean water – and all of us have a role in protecting our creeks and tributaries in Newark. By protecting water quality here in Newark, we are not only helping to improve our quality of life, but also the quality of life for the rest of our neighbors and animals who call the Delaware Estuary their home. The Delaware Estuary is where the river meets the sea, and it is a vital ecosystem.

### **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

The largest contributor of stormwater pollution is diffuse, or "non-point" sources like cars leaking oil, fertilizers washing off of fields, lawns, and gardens, and failing septic systems. Even ordinary activities around the home, like properly washing your car, can make a difference.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- 💧 Wash your car on a grassy area if possible, so the ground can filter the water naturally. Use soap sparingly. Try to use phosphate-free or biodegradable detergents.
- 💧 Use a hose that has a pistol grip or trigger nozzle to save water. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse it quickly.
- 💧 When you're done, empty your bucket of soapy water down the sink, in the grass, gravel, or into another area able to absorb it, not in the street or driveway.
- 💧 Vacuum car interiors, don't shake the dirt from floor mats onto the ground. This helps prevent this dirt from reaching storm drains in the next rain. Make sure all trash is thrown away or recycled.
- 💧 Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of the car. Most car washes reuse water several times before sending it for treatment at a sewage treatment plant.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For more information on stormwater runoff pollution prevention, call the City of Newark at 302-366-7040, or visit our website at:

<http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/NPDESstormwaterprogram>

**In Newark: Only Rain in the Storm Drain**



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