

Did You Know?

Storm drains are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant.

The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As rainwater flows over the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants which then flow to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources including dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides and other hazardous materials.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways.



City of Moorhead

500 Center Ave
P.O. Box 779

Moorhead, MN 56560

24 Hour Stormwater Hotline

218.299.5386

stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us

www.cityofmoorhead.com

Best Management Practices for Washing Your Car



City of Moorhead
Stormwater Pollution Prevention

24 Hour Stormwater Hotline
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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, trash, metal, automotive fluids, and other hazardous materials from entering the storm sewer system.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH WASHING YOUR CAR?

There's no problem with washing your car. It's just how and where you do it.

Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt, metal, oil and other automotive fluids washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains. These storm drains flow directly into our stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae look bad, smell bad, and harm water quality.

As algae die, the blooms sink to the bottom and decompose. During this process oxygen is removed from the water. Fish and other aquatic life can not exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.



SOLUTION

- ◆ Wash your car on your lawn. The lawn will soak in the water.
- ◆ Use soap sparingly. Look for soap that is phosphorous free.
- ◆ Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- ◆ Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or toilet when you are done, not on the driveway, sidewalk or street.
- ◆ Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.
- ◆ Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

