



Only Rain  
Down the  
Drain.

water is life.

[cccleanwater.org](http://cccleanwater.org)



PROPER CAR WASH FUNDRAISING  
IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Call the

**CONTRA COSTA CLEAN  
WATER PROGRAM**

at 925-313-2164 to make

a reservation and obtain

location information.



CONTRA COSTA  
**CLEAN WATER**  
PROGRAM

255 GLACIER DRIVE | MARTINEZ, CA 94553-4825

PH: (925) 313-2360 | FX: (925) 313-2301

1-800-NO DUMPING | 1-800-663-8674



CONTRA COSTA  
**CLEAN WATER**  
PROGRAM

## It is illegal to allow anything other than rain water to be discharged to a storm drain.

Wash water from cleaning cars should never be discharged to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. Wash water from cleaning cars contains materials such as solvents, heavy metals, dirt, and soapy water which can degrade water quality and creek habitats. Individuals who improperly handle and dispose of non-stormwater materials down the storm drain are subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

## How are the Storm Drain and Sanitary Sewer Systems Different?

Throughout urban communities, the storm drain system transports rainwater to local creeks, the bay, the delta, and to the ocean. This system was created to prevent flooding within communities and homes. All water and materials that enter the storm drain system is untreated. The sanitary sewer is a plumbed system that transports sewer water from buildings to a wastewater collection and treatment facility, where the water and sewage is treated before being released back into the environment.

If you see an outdoor drain and are unsure of its use, assume it is a storm drain and do not discharge wash water to it.

## Planning a Car Wash Fundraiser?

Charity car wash events need to include protection of the storm drain system to prevent pollution from entering creeks and other waterways. To stop pollution from entering our storm drains, best management practices, that are included in this brochure, are required to ensure that your car washing event does not pollute the environment. Please follow these steps before conducting your car washing event:

**Step 1:** Contact your local municipality to ensure that charity car washing events are legal within your community.

**Step 2:** If charity car washes are legal at the location of your event, contact the Contra Costa Clean Water Program to borrow a car washing kit free of charge to discharge your wash water to the appropriate sanitary drain or vegetated area. Fill out all liability release forms (found on the Contra Costa Clean Water Program's website at [cccleanwater.org](http://cccleanwater.org)) required to borrow the car washing kit.



**Step 3:** Obtain permission from the owner of the event location to conduct a car washing event and locate an approved sanitary drain or vegetated area to discharge your wash water.

**Step 4:** Read the enclosed directions of how to use the car washing kit appropriately.

**Step 5:** At the end of your event, return the car washing kit to the local municipality.

## How to Get a Kit

Kits are available on a first come first served basis and reservations can be made up to a month in advance. Each city that provides a car washing kit in Contra Costa County has its own location for pickup. Call the Contra Costa Clean Water Program at **925-313-2360** to make a reservation and obtain location information to borrow a kit. All kit parts will be confirmed to be in working condition before pickup. All parts must be returned in working condition or replaced if broken. Be sure to return your kit on the agreed date and time. Late drop off will compromise kit availability for your own organization in the future.

### WHAT'S IN THE KIT?

- > Instructions
- > Submersible Pump
- > Two 50-Foot Extension Cords (GROUNDED)
- > Roll Duct Tape
- > 3'x4' Heavy Duty Rubber Mat
- > 50' or Longer Garden Hose
- > Two Spray Nozzles (HARD PLASTIC)
- > Three Safety Cones (LARGE)

Any organization borrowing the kit will need to provide its own washing materials (soap, sponges, towels) and find its own location that includes a water source, an electrical outlet, and an appropriate discharge location for the wash water—either a sanitary hookup or a vegetated area.

**Good luck on your car wash fundraiser—and thanks for helping to keep our environment clean and safe.**