

Car Washing

Negative impacts of car washes on waterways

Washing your car at home or at a local fundraiser are ways to save money or raise money for a good cause. Unfortunately they can have a negative impact on our waterways.

Sending pollutants like dirt, detergent, oils, and heavy metals along with the wash water into the stormwater system that drains to our rivers and streams is toxic to fish and can harm plant life.

Keeping car wash water out of the drains is a great way to keep our streams and waterways healthy.



Everything that goes into the gutter and storm drains is untreated and ends up in the streams and eventually the sea.

Any activity which discharges contaminants to a drain is in direct violation of the Timaru District Consolidated Bylaw.



Timaru District Council
2 King George Place
Timaru 7910
03 687 7200
stormwater@timdc.govt.nz



Car Washing



Reducing the impact
on our waterways

www.timaru.govt.nz/stormwater

What can you do to reduce the impact?

Use a commercial car wash

The ideal way to prevent stormwater pollution from car wash is to use a commercial car wash

These car washes discharge the wash water into the sewer system where it can be treated.



Use a car wash kit

Car wash kits keep pollutants (soap and car fluids) - which are toxic to fish - out of our waterways by rerouting water to the wastewater treatment plant.

You can build an environmental friendly car wash kit or hire one for your community or charity car washes. Contact us for advice.

Use our car washing guide

Keeping your car clean is great and you can do it while protecting our environment.

It's easier than you think and it's no bother. The key is to stop the run off from washing your car (which includes pollutants such as detergent, dirt and oils) entering the stormwater system. These pollutants drain into streams and the sea, where they can seriously affect fish and other aquatic life.



How to wash your car

If you want healthy wildlife, a clean environment and a clean car, take the responsible approach and follow these steps when washing your car.



1 Wash on unsealed ground or grass



2 Have rags or towels in place to ensure wash water does not reach the drain.



3

Wipe vehicle clean and dry, using a bucket and cloth instead of a hose.



4 Tip your dirty water down the sink or toilet.