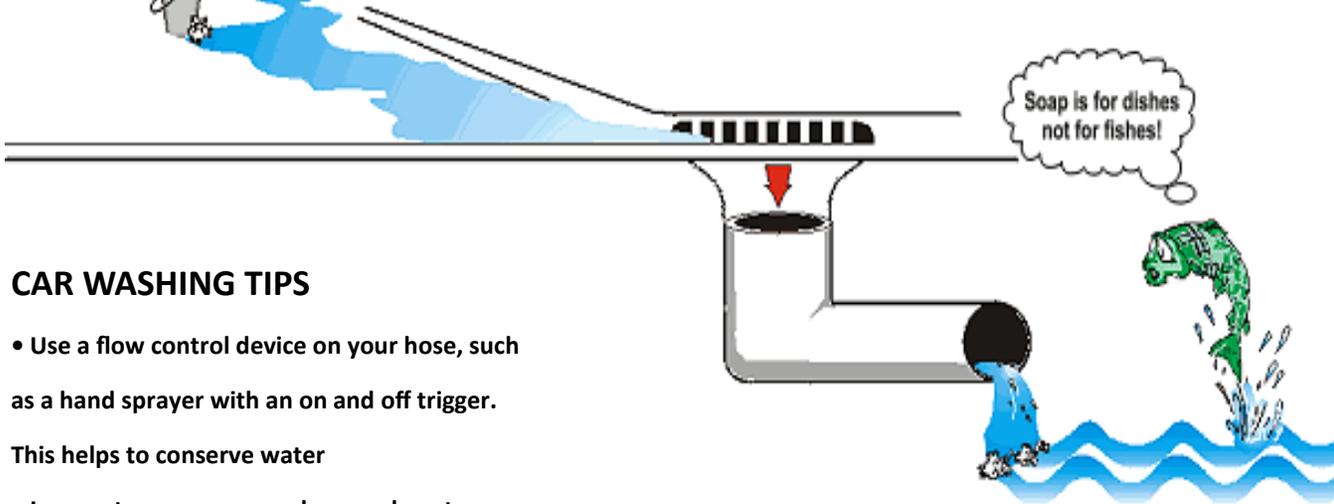




# Do you wash your car at home?

Did you know: Washing your car at home can introduce soap, oil and engine grime into our creeks and rivers.

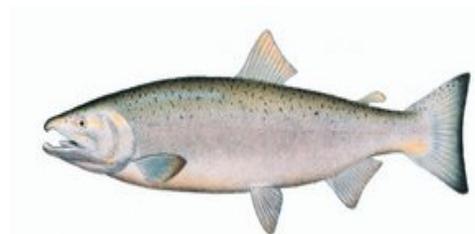


## CAR WASHING TIPS

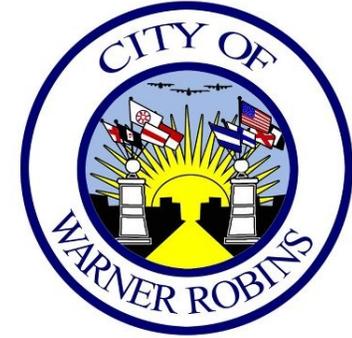
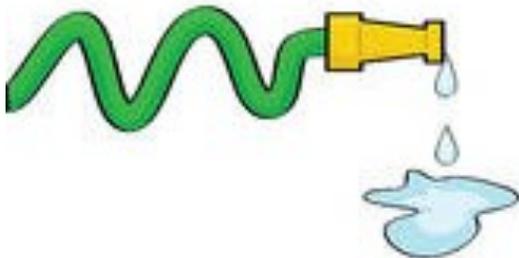
- Use a flow control device on your hose, such as a hand sprayer with an on and off trigger. This helps to conserve water
- Less water usage means less wash water soaked into the grass, gravel or diverted into sanitary sewer drains
- Instead of washing your car at home, use a commercial car wash facility – All wash water at these facilities enters into sanitary sewer drains

## REMEMBER

All soaps, even bio-degradable ones, are toxic to fish.  
Help preserve our natural resources –



don't allow soapy water to enter storm drains.



## Stormwater Utility Management Residential Car Wash Guide

### Report Spills & Waste

If you witness someone pouring waste down a storm drain, contact the City of Warner Robins Public Works Department

478 929-1900



## Storm Water Utility Management

### RESIDENTIAL CAR WASH GUIDE

**Polluting Lakes & Streams**  
**How soapy water can damage**

**Environmental Damage**  
**Toxins in wash water**

**What you can do**  
**Water & wash saving tips**

**Report Spills & Waste**  
**City & emergency contacts**



### Polluting Lakes & Streams

Soapy water going down storm drains pollutes your lakes and streams by adding excess phosphorous and other chemicals!

A sanitary sewer collects dirty wastewater from toilets, sinks, etc. and carries this to a wastewater treatment plant to improve water quality.

A storm drain collects and carries rain water from the streets, parking lots and rooftops and, in almost all cases, discharges it untreated into our wetlands, streams, creeks, rivers and lakes.



### Look at the Options

Paying attention to how you wash your car is one way that everyone can contribute to clean water. Car washing alternatives include:

- Wash on lawns or other surfaces where water can seep into the ground
- Take your car to a commercial car wash, either self-serve or machine wash

### Environmental damage

Pollutants in car wash water that are discharged to storm drains are not removed and end up in our creeks, rivers, lakes and other waterways.

Wash water contains dirt, road grime, oils and soaps that can destroy aquatic life, habitat and the quality of our water.

#### FACTS

1. Assume a solution containing one cup of All Soil Detergent for each gallon of water is used to wash a car. To safely discharge that single gallon of soapy water to a storm drain, it would have to be diluted with over 800 gallons of water.
2. Once in the water, a small amount of oil goes a long way. A single pint of oil stretches into a one-acre slick.



### What You Can Do

If you are washing your car at home, wash it on your lawn where the wash water will soak into the soil and won't drain directly into a storm drain. It is ideal to divert wash water away from a storm drain.