

# Nothing But Rain Down the Storm Drain!



You Can Be  
The Solution to  
Water Pollution

## Take your car to a commercial car wash

About 60 percent of the water at commercial car washes is recycled, and dirty water drains to the sanitary sewer for treatment. When you wash your car at home, soap, oils, and other toxics wash into a storm drain and flow untreated to a stream, lake, or wetland. Even biodegradable soap pollutes water!

Instead of holding a fund-raising car wash, sell car wash coupons, check out a car wash kit from the City of Bellevue (or use a site that has one), or consider other fundraising options.

## Have car oil leaks fixed

Motor oil is a problem in local waterways, and it stays around for a long time. To see if your vehicle is leaking, place clean cardboard on the ground under your engine and check the next day. If you change your own motor oil, take the used oil to a business that recycles it.

## Scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the garbage

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria, which can contaminate water and make people sick. Composting or burying pet waste does not destroy the harmful organisms. Do not put pet waste in yard debris carts.

## Practice Natural Yard Care

Avoid using pesticides and chemical fertilizers. They wash off lawns and pollute waterways. Prevent problems instead by practicing Natural Yard Care. Enrich soil with compost. Pull weeds or spot spray instead of spreading weed and feed products. Choose a variety of pest and disease-resistant plants and encourage "good" bugs to control pests naturally. If pests persist, use least toxic controls first. Use chemical pesticides sparingly only as a last resort.

# THIS DRAINS HERE



Everything that washes into a storm drain flows untreated to the nearest stream, lake, or wetland. Fertilizers, pesticides, soap, oil, pet waste, and other pollutants wash off lawns and streets and end up in local waterways. By making small changes, you can be the solution to water pollution!

