Keep Car Washing from Harming Our Streams

Did you know:

- Soapy runoff from vehicle washing enters storm drains and flows untreated into local streams.
- Detergent levels as low as 0.1 ppm can harm wildlife and negatively impact drinking water and supplies.
- Even biodegradable detergents contain surfactants which can harm fish.
- Tap water from running hoses contains enough chlorine to kill fish in local streams.

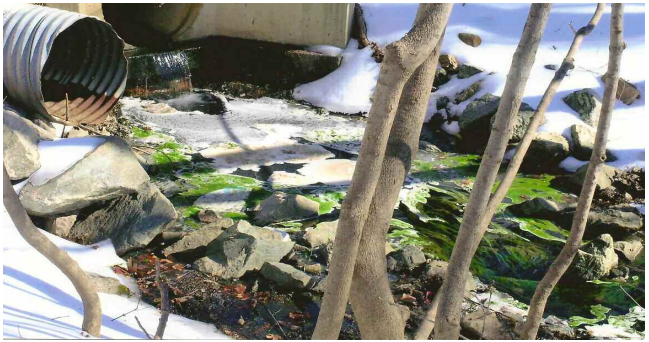

Photo taken on a Crum Creek tributary in winter showing showing detergent discharge from stormwater outfall and algae in the stream.

Use a commercial car wash whenever possible. They typically use half the water, and treat and reuse the water before discharging it to sanitary sewers.

If use of a commercial car wash is not possible, please follow these precautions:

1) Park the car so that water runs off onto a grassy area, not to the street.
   Use protective measures to redirect water onto grass and to block nearby stormdrains.
2) Use a bucket of wash water with minimal detergent or plain water with sponges and towels, not a running hose, to wash and rinse the car.
3) Use a high-pressure, low-volume hose with a trigger nozzle to refill the bucket. Do not allow hose to run freely on the pavement.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER!

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This message is brought to you by your municipality and Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association, ***www.crcwatersheds.org.***