

Green Tips for Washing your Vehicle

USE COMMERCIAL WASHES

Commercial car washes are more eco-friendly than washing at home. Commercial washes either recycle or dispose of used water in approved drainage facilities that treat the water prior to discharge. Additionally, commercial car washes are more water efficient than at home washing.

HOWEVER, if you prefer to wash your own car at home below are some steps to go green as you clean:

1. Buy biodegradable, phosphate free, water-based cleaners. Many car-cleaning products contain phosphates, sodium and other chemicals that are harmful to aquatic ecosystems. Some examples of eco-friendly products are listed below:
 - Green Earth Car Wash
 - Simple Green Car Wash
 - Gliptone Wash and Glow

Using products like the ones listed above will minimize impacts to aquatic environments during washings.

2. Use as little soap as possible during the wash. This will result in fewer toxins entering the environment.
3. Use a spray nozzle with flow restrictions during washes. Use a hose with a shut-off valve to conserve water so that your hose does not continuously run while washing.
4. Wash your car on gravel or grass. This will allow the ground to filter out the soap prior to the wash water reentering. If you wash on a paved surface, overland flow will most likely carry the dirty and soapy water to a body of water nearby.

