

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.



All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb. Then into the storm drain and directly into our creeks, streams and San Francisco Bay. And that causes pollution which is unhealthy for fish. So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy. Wash your car on grass or gravel instead of the street. Or better yet, take it to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

- Wash your car on a grassy area if possible, so the ground can filter the water naturally.
- Use soap sparingly. Try to use non-phosphate detergents.
- Use a hose that is high pressure, low volume and has a pistol grip or trigger nozzle to save water. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse it quickly.
- When you're done, empty your bucket of soapy water down the sink, not in the street.
- Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of the car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it for treatment at the sewage treatment plant.
- If you plan to hold a car wash "fund raising event," contact your local sewer or public works department. They can provide suggestions on alternatives to direct discharge of soapy water to a sanitary sewer system.



Town of Moraga Clean Water Program

"Pollution prevention through education"