Notice of Car Wash Fundraising Events

In an effort to continue compliance with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Birmingham Public Schools prohibits car wash fundraising events on all Birmingham Public School's Properties.

The stormwater management program describes policies, procedures, strategies, and measurable goals established by Birmingham Public Schools to implement and monitor the on-going success of this program. The Stormwater Management Plan is available for review on the district website.

Any questions or comments in regard to the plan should be addressed to the Stormwater Program Manager at (248) 203-3992. Below is information regarding car washing issues as it related to our local waterways and tips for car washing practices off school properties.

Remember, you're not just washing your car



What's the issue?

Did you know there are over four million vehicles in Southeast Michigan? So, practicing good car care means you are helping protect our lakes and streams. How does caring for your car affect our lakes and streams? Storm drains found in our streets and roadside ditches lead to our lakes and streams. So, if dirty water from washing our cars washes into the storm drain, it pollutes our local waterways. Likewise, if your vehicle leaks motor fluids on the street or driveway, that too, can wash into the storm drain and pollute our local waterways.

What are some helpful tips?

Here are some simple steps you can take to care for your car and help keep our water clean. Give them a try. A few simple changes can make a big difference!

Make a date. Car-wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and streams. So, make a date to take your car to a car wash.

Wash it - on the grass. If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. Or, if you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.

Minimize it. Reduce the amount of soap you use or wash your car with plain water.

Maintain it. Keep your vehicle properly tuned and use the owner's manual to guide decisions about how often it is necessary to change fluids such as oil and antifreeze.

Take advantage of business expertise. Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.

Recycle. If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers. Then, take them to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.

Soak it up. Use kitty litter promptly to absorb small amounts of spilled vehicle fluids. Then sweep it into a bag and throw it in the trash.

Do it under cover. Whenever possible, perform vehicle maintenance in a well-ventilated, but covered location (e.g., garage). This minimizes the potential for rainfall to wash those inevitable spills and drips into our lakes and streams.

These tips are part of SEMCOG's "Ours to Protect: Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water". For more information, please go to **SEMCOG's - "Ours to Protect"**