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

Greater Lansing Regional Committee
For Stormwater Management

What's the problem with washing the car?

There's no problem with washing your car. It's just how and where you do it. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt, oil and grit washed from your car, flows along the curb and into nearby storm drains, which run directly into our rivers, streams, wetlands and lakes. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae blooms look bad, smell bad, and harm water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.

Clean water is important to all of us. Together we can make it happen

When you wash your car in the driveway or road, the soap, dirt, oil and other grime washed from your car cause pollution, which is unhealthy for fish and other creatures that live in and near the water.

So how do you avoid this whole mess? Easy.

Take your car to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled!

Your actions can help keep our water clean. Find out how.
www.mywatersheds.org

Image Courtesy of Puget Sound Action Team, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma