

So, what's the Problem?

There's no problem with washing your car, it just matters how and where you choose to wash it. The average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a car. If you wash your car in your driveway, all that water, along with the soap, grease, brake dust, oil, and dirt that you wash off your car flows directly into the nearest storm drain. From there, it's just a short trip to the Grand River and eventually Lake Michigan.



So what can you do?
TAKE THE PLEDGE!

LGROW is an agency of Grand Valley Metro Council dedicated to the preservation, improvement, and monitoring of the Lower Grand River.

LGROW is responsible for carrying out the recommendations in the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan.

LGROW does this by providing technical assistance and coordination to subwatershed groups and increasing public awareness and understanding of watershed issues.

Help preserve Michigan's water resources.

Join today!



Contact Us:

Phone: (616) 776-7601

Email: info@lgrow.org

Website: www.lgrow.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LGROW.org>

Take The Car Wash Pledge



PLEDGE

I pledge to be environmentally responsible by washing my car At a commercial car wash **OR** On the grass, where soapy water, grease, and dirt can't make their way to storm drains, rivers or lakes.

Signed: _____

To receive your free shammy, please sign the pledge, cut it out and send it to:

LGROW

Cars for the Environment
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Please send my shammy to this address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Join LGROW's email list:

Email: _____



Only rain
in the drain

This community maintains separate stormwater and sewer systems.

Anything that goes into a storm drain, goes into the Grand River.

How Can You Wash Your Car and Keep Our Water Clean?

- Use soap sparingly.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the street.
- Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water naturally. Or, take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Often, car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.
- **NEVER** dump anything in a storm drain.

More Tips for Environmentally Responsible Vehicle Care

Regular Maintenance

Leaky vehicles leave oil and fluids behind on streets and driveways where they can wash into storm drains. Regular and preventative maintenance can prevent this and save you money.

Deal with leaks & drips

Never hose down a spill! Use an absorbent material like kitty litter, saw dust or corn meal to soak up vehicle fluids that leak or spill. Then sweep up the material and dispose of it in the trash. Or, use a drip pan to catch leaks and drips while you work before they make a mess.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Choose environmentally friendly car care products whenever possible, use only as much as you need and dispose of waste properly. If you change your own oil, find out if you can recycle your used oil at the same place you purchase oil.



To find out more about what you can do to prevent water pollution visit: www.LGROW.org