

# Car Washing

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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## **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

*BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, trash, metal, automotive fluids, and other hazardous materials from entering the storm sewer system. The storm sewer system consists of curb, gutter, catch basins, pipes, ditches, stormwater ponds, as well as natural drainage such as creeks and rivers. Your actions can have a significant impact on the water quality. Be a part of the solution and apply the following tips.*

- **Wash your car on your lawn. The lawn will soak in the water.**
- **Use soap sparingly. Look for soap that is phosphorous free.**
- **Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.**
- **Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or toilet when you are done, not on the driveway, sidewalk or street.**
- **Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.**
- **Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car.**

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River. The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources, including grease spills, dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials. Cass County Government is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.

