

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

# Fundraising Car Washes

Car washes have long been a favorite fundraiser for scout troops, schools and other non-profit groups. But in the last few years we have become aware of the negative impact car washes have on the environment. Dirty water containing soaps, detergent, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline and motor oil washes off the cars and directly into the storm drain, and then into our creeks, LeClere lake, or the Verdigris river. Collectively, car wash events can account for some serious pollution.

### Choosing a site

It is important to choose a site for your car wash where wastewater can be disposed of properly. Some popular sites, such as service stations and parking lots, usually do not have the necessary connections to the *sanitary sewer system*.

### Here are some options:

- Find a sponsor for your car wash that uses a closed-loop washing system — one that recycles its water.
- Ask a local commercial car wash to donate part of their day's receipts or see if they will allow you to sell a special wash ticket.
- Hold your car wash at an industrial or commercial site that has a designated vehicle wash area.
- Rent a mobile washing system that can contain the water on the site. The collected water must be disposed of properly into the sanitary sewer, and not into a *stormdrain*.
- Contact your city's local clean water program to see how you can set up an area to drain wash water to the sewer.



**Keep car wash water  
OUT of storm drains.**



Pouring cleaning fluids or soapy wash water from auto activities into the gutters or storm drains will damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks, LeClere lake & the Verdigris river. It does not go to a water treatment plant first.



## What about biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products?

These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled “non-toxic” and “biodegradable.”

- “Non-toxic” means the product is not toxic to the user.
- “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down. Biodegradable products can still harm aquatic wildlife since they need time to break down before they are safe. When biodegradable products enter a creek, they are generally still toxic and can harm wildlife and plants.

## What about leftover or unwanted cleaning products?

Leftover cleaning products should be properly disposed of. Contact the Hazardous Waste agency for your area for more information. See information on the right.

### KEY DEFINITIONS

The **Storm Drain System** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks, LeClere lake & the Verdigris river without any treatment.

The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.



<http://www.coffeyville.com/index.aspx?nid=169>

## For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

### City of Coffeyville W/W

Chuck Shively..... (620) 252-6007  
Jim Bradshaw.....(620) 252-6020  
Randy Barg.....(620) 252-6139  
Shane George.....(620) 252-6039

### Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Phone.....(620) 252-6019  
email.....stormwater@coffeyville.com

### Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

Montgomery County Household  
Hazardous Waste

Phone.....(620) 331-4139  
114 N. Wald -- Independence, Ks. 67301  
\*(Open 3rd Wednesday of the month)

