
*Your consideration for our
community and the environment
is appreciated!*



*For additional information please
call the City of Alhambra
(626) 570 - 5067*

Best Management Practices Non-Commercial Car Washing

**Residents or Non-Profit
Organizations**



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Best Management Practices Non-Commercial Car Washing

**Residents or Non-Profit
Organizations**



Under NPDES Permit No R4-2012-0175, discharges as a result of non-commercial car washing by residents or by non-profit organizations are exempt, provided that the discharge itself is not a source of pollution. Discharges from such activities are allowed after implementation of specific BMPs. as listed below:

- ✓ Ensure any discharge avoids potential sources of pollutants in the flow path to prevent introduction of pollutants prior to discharge to the storm drain system and receiving water.
- ✓ Minimize the amount of water used by employing water conservation practices such as turning off nozzles or kinking the hose when not spraying a car, and using a low volume pressure washer.
- ✓ Use biodegradable, phosphate free detergents and non-toxic cleaning products.
- ✓ Where possible, wash cars on a permeable surface where wash water can percolate into the ground (e.g. gravel or grassy areas).
- ✓ Empty buckets of soapy or rinse water into the sanitary sewer system (e.g., sinks or toilets).

Washwater from vehicle cleaning activities may contain significant quantities of oil and grease, suspended solids, heavy metals, and organics, as well as pollutants from detergents. These pollutants are toxic and harmful to living organisms, including fish and people who ingest them. Oil and grease contain hydrocarbon compounds, some of which can kill aquatic life, coat fish gills, and prevent oxygen from entering water even at low concentrations.



When vehicles are cleaned in driveways or on the street, chemicals and pollutants drain into the street, gutters and eventually into the storm drain system. It is preferable to use a waterless car wash whenever possible.

Should the resident or non-profit organization choose not to implement the BMPs as specified and the discharge becomes a source of pollution, then the discharge will be treated as an illegal discharge in to the storm drain system.



A written Notice of Violation (also known as a Compliance Order pursuant to 1.13.050) with a correction period may be issued first to allow you adequate time to correct the violation(s) at the City's discretion. If the violation is not corrected by the date specified in the Notice of Violation, then an Administrative Citation may be issued and administrative fines imposed for failure to correct violations by the date specified. Violators can also be held responsible for fines and cleanup costs associated with dumping of illicit materials into the storm drain.

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