

## How to reserve a car wash kit?

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- 1) Arrange with host business to schedule a date and time for car wash event.
- 2) Contact the City of Chico Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) by calling (530) 879-6950 or by visiting [keepchicoclean.org](http://keepchicoclean.org) to fill out an application and to reserve a car wash kit.
- 3) Once your reservation request is submitted, you will receive an email from the City of Chico SWMP confirming your reservation.
- 4) Each reservation requires a \$100 deposit check before picking up the car wash kit.
- 5) Pick up the carwash kit at the City of Chico Municipal Building located 411 Main Street, 2nd floor, Chico, CA. 95928.
- 6) Return car wash pump kit to SWMP office and pick up your deposit check.



## Car Wash Fundraiser

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**Storm Water Management  
411 Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Chico, CA. 95928  
(530) 879-6900**

[www.keepchicoclean.org](http://www.keepchicoclean.org)



**City of Chico**

*Soap is for dishes, not fishes!  
If it isn't rainwater, it doesn't  
belong in the gutter!*

## What is the Problem?

When you wash a car in the driveway, parking lot or street, the following can flow through city gutters and into storm drains:

- Used Oil
- Detergents/Chemicals
- Dirty water
- Soaps

Unlike the water that goes down a sink or toilet in your home, water that goes into storm drains is untreated and flows directly into our creeks.

All by itself, your car wash may not seem to be contributing that much. Collectively, each of these car washes, contributes to serious pollution.



## Water Conservation:

Everyone is asked to do what they can to conserve water, including car wash location sponsors. State law requires the following:

- Water should not flow to non-irrigated surfaces, like sidewalks or into the gutter.
- When washing cars, the hose needs to have a shut-off nozzle.

Further rules and guidelines can be found on Cal Water's [website](http://www.calwater.com/conservation/drought/) under drought resources: [www.calwater.com/conservation/drought/](http://www.calwater.com/conservation/drought/)

## Before the Car Wash Event:

- Contact the City of Chico's **Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)** by visiting [www.keepchicoclean.org](http://www.keepchicoclean.org) to fill out an application and to reserve a car wash kit.
- Choose **one** of these options:
  1. Select a site where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel, or be diverted to nearby landscaping. This will allow the wash water to filter through the vegetation and/or soil instead of flowing directly into the storm drain.
  2. Use one of the City's car wash kits. The **car wash kit** contains equipment that you can use to block off the storm drain and divert wastewater to areas where the soapy/dirty water can soak into the ground instead of flowing into the gutters, and into our creeks.
  3. Find a sponsor for your carwash that uses a closed loop washing system—one that recycles its water. Do not hold your carwash at a facility that is not properly equipped. Popular host sites, such as service stations and parking lots, usually do not have the necessary connections to the sanitary sewer.
- Hold a meeting with all the car wash volunteers to explain how to protect our creeks while working at the car wash fundraiser.
- Remove all trash and debris from the car washing area.

## During the Car Wash Event:

- Use only soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled "non-toxic," "phosphate free," or "biodegradable."
- Dilute biodegradable soaps according to the directions.
- Do not use acid based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers.
- Conserve water by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off.



## After the Car Wash Event:

- Always empty buckets into pervious areas where the water will evaporate or soak into the ground.
- If you use sandbags to divert water from the storm drain, you can save the sandbags for the next car wash or you can use the sand in planters or in a garden.

