### STORMWATER POLLUTION FROM CAR WASHING

Car washing is a common routine for raising funds from student sport organizations and scout troops. Most of the time, cars are washed on paved driveways and parking lots, which allow wash water (dirty water) to find its way to the nearest storm drain, ultimately discharging into our drinking water sources.

Car wash waters often contain pollutants, such as sediments, salt, oils and grease, hydrocarbons, phosphates (from the soaps) and heavy metals (paint chips) and other chemicals, - all of which are detrimental to our health.

### COMMERCIAL CAR WASH FACILITY

The best action is to take your car to a commercial facility, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Most commercial car wash facilities are totally enclosed and are designed with separate drain systems that treat and recycle the water several times before it is ultimately discharged to a sanitary sewer system.

### OUTDOOR CAR WASHING PREVENTIVE STEPS

If you do not take your car to a commercial car wash facility, you should:

- Block off the storm drain near where you intend to wash your car
- Wash your car on gravel, grass or another permeable surface so that the ground can filter the water naturally
- Use soap sparingly
- Use non-phosphate detergents
- Use a hose that is high pressure low volume
- Use a hose that automatically turns off when left unattended
- Empty wash water from your bucket into a sink