

CAR WASH



Be an Everyday Clean Water Hero!

Be **AWARE**, take **ACTION**, report **ACTIVITIES**
that adversely affect streams, drainage channels and the ocean.

BE AWARE:

When it rains, car fluids such as oil, break fluids, exhaust fumes and heavy metals run off into storm drains, streams and the ocean. In addition, large amounts of phosphates from car wash detergents can wash into storm drains, streams and the ocean causing algae blooms (overgrowth of aquatic plants that smother other aquatic life). These blooms block sunlight needed by underwater plants that provide habitat, and the algae's decay robs the water of dissolved oxygen needed by aquatic life.

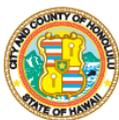
TAKE ACTION:

- One of the best practices is to use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles the wastewater. Some use only 3 gallons of fresh water to rinse each car.
- Wash your vehicle on the lawn instead of the driveway, wash where runoff drains to vegetation so the water can soak into the ground or wash in a designated car wash area using soap sparingly and minimal water.
- Use only enough of a cleaning product to get the job done.
- If you wash your vehicle on a residential City street, use soap sparingly and minimal water. Do not wash the undercarriage of your vehicle.
- Use a spray gun with flow restriction or a bucket and sponge to minimize runoff and save water. Residential car washing uses up to 150 gallons of water with the hose running. Fast wet down and rinsing quickly can reduce use to 50 gallons.
- Dispose leftover soapy water in the toilet or sink.
- Use a Phosphate free soap.

REPORT ACTIVITIES:

City's Environmental Concern Line at **768-3300** or visit
www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com

Reference: Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Branch, Honolulu Board of Water Supply.
<http://epa.gov/nps/toolbox/>



9 POLLUTION TIPS

NEIGHBORHOOD

1. **Keep It Clean** - It is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of your property clean.
2. **Dump No Waste** - Stencil storm drains with the message, "Dump No Waste, Protect Our Waters...For Life," and keep waste materials from polluting our waterways.
3. **Do It Right** - Use water-based paint and dispose properly.

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4. **Use an Oil Change Box** - If you change your own oil be careful not to spill it in the street where it could enter the storm drain. Have old rags or other absorbent material handy to pick up the mess in case of a spill
5. **Use Water and Soap Sparingly** - Wash your car with a bucket, sponge, and nozzle on the end of the hose to conserve water and reduce the pollutants entering the ocean; too many pollutants in the water decreases water quality and can harm aquatic life.

YARD

6. **Cover Up** - Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property by replacing bare soil with vegetative cover or mulch and covering temporary stockpiles with tarps. Plant right for your site.
7. **Read the Label** - Read and follow the label on all fertilizers and pesticides. The label is the law.
8. **Yard Maintenance** - Gather leaves, grass clippings, and yard trimmings for proper disposal or composting. Practice smart watering. Use open pavers or other permeable paving that lets the rain soak into the soil. Minimize impermeable paving.
9. **Pick It Up** - Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.

Laws and Ordinances

The Federal Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority of implement water pollution control programs. Local statutes and ordinances address compliance and enforcement of the EPA's mandates.

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12-23(a) Environmental Quality Control—Violation states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.

Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.

*Department of
Facility Maintenance*

www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com