

# Did You Know?

The dirt on cars can **contain toxic chemicals,** heavy metals, oil and grease



**When you wash your car** on your driveway or the street, the dirty water runs into the storm sewer

Water from storm sewers drains directly into local creeks and rivers **without being treated**

Runoff from **car washing contributes to water pollution** and affects the quality of our creeks, rivers and lakes

The only thing going into a storm sewer should be **rainwater and snow melt**

City of London the *Waste Discharge By-law* controls the quality and quantity of substances discharged into the sanitary and stormwater sewer systems and natural watercourses.

Improper disposal of liquid waste could result in by-law charges, fines and expensive clean up costs billed directly to you.

***Call the City of London at 519-661-4965 if you see someone pouring chemicals, oil, paint or any other suspicious material into a storm sewer catch basin, sanitary sewer or land drainage works (i.e. a ditch).***



Contact information:  
Wastewater Treatment Operations  
City of London  
519-661-5701  
london.ca

# Protect Our Environment

## Washing Your Car



Why only rain should go down the drain

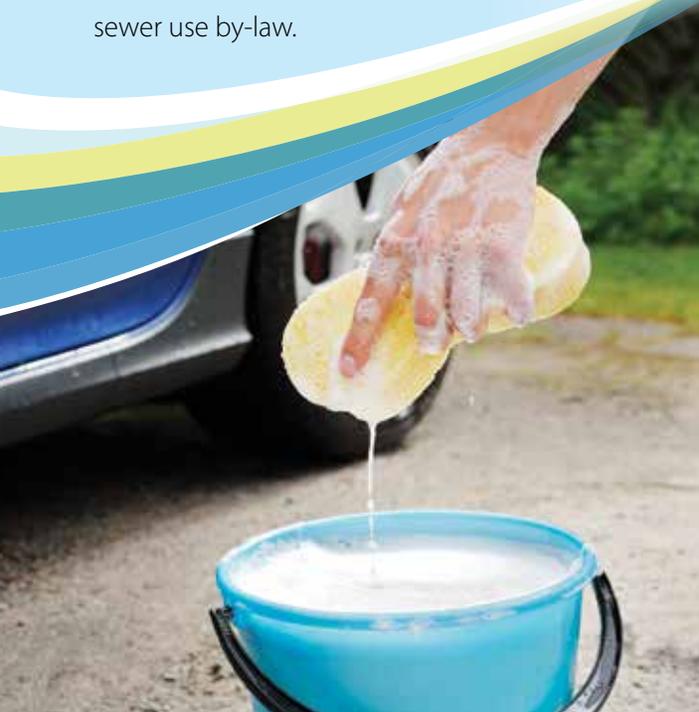
## Are you polluting our water?

The dirty water from washing your car can contain chemicals, oil and grease. Allowing these substances to run into City storm sewers can lead to contamination of our creeks, rivers and lakes.

We need to keep our drinking water sources clean.

## What is a spill?

A spill occurs any time anything harmful is dumped into a storm sewer that isn't water. A spill can be any size, big or small and can be chemical or biological. Spills are regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act (EPA) R.S.O. 1990 – Section 92.2, 93.1* and the *Clean Water Act*. As well, many towns and cities have their own enforceable sewer use by-law.



## To avoid having dirty water run into our storm sewer system, consider these options for washing your car:

- 1 **Use a commercial car wash facility** (automatic or coin). These facilities are required to follow a set of practices determined by the City, including treating wastewater and discharging it into the sanitary sewer system where it will receive further treatment.

Commercial car washes are regulated to practice water conservation. Washing your car at home can use as much as 50 percent more water.

- 2 **Find a location where the wastewater won't flow into the storm sewer.** For example, washing cars on a gravel surface or grass allows the wastewater to be absorbed before it reaches the storm sewer.

These options will help protect public health and aquatic environments from the harmful effects of dirty water entering the storm sewers.

**DO NOT** pour liquid waste down the storm sewer.



It's important to be aware London has two types of sewer systems:

- The sanitary system takes used water from homes and businesses to a wastewater treatment plant.
- The storm sewer system — the square grates on the side of the road — takes rainwater and melted snow from our streets and releases it, untreated, into local creeks, storm ponds, rivers and lakes.

## Soap and detergent is harmful to aquatic life.

It can cause damage to fish tissue and organs, which could make fish vulnerable to diseases and eventually lead to death. When you wash your car at home, don't let the soap and detergent run into the storm sewer.

