Appendix ‘A’

Residential Best Practices Pamphlets

Figure A1: Toilets are Not Garbage Cans
Figure A2: Storm Sewers – Only rain down the drain
Figure A3: Sinks are Not Garbage Cans
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.

Protect Our Environment
Washing Your Car

The City of London 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

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 anytime 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) A.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 self). 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.
2. Commercial car washes are regulated to practice water conservation. Washing your car at home can use as much as 50 percent more water.
3. Find a location where the wastewater won't flow into the storm sewer. For example, washing cars on a gravel or grass allows the wastewater to be absorbed before it reaches the storm sewer.
4. 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.

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.

Figure A5: Car Wash – Why only rain should go down the drain
Figure A6: Food Waste Grinders