



The Facts About Professional Car Washes and The Environment

CleanTown USA is committed to being a good neighbor that offers a superior product. As a contributing member of the community we're also concerned about the environment around us. We've gone to great lengths to ensure that CleanTown is a clean, quiet and energy-efficient operation that doesn't pollute the air or water.

Read on to learn why a professional car wash is better for the environment than washing your car at home.

Washing my car at home must be better for the environment.

Quite the opposite, home car washes pollute the environment as soap and road grime (oil, tar, dirt) end up in storm sewers that flow into lakes, streams and rivers. Many North American cities have even banned driveway or parking lot charity car-washing events, which result in soapy discharge and wasted water. Increasingly, professional car washes are considered as better site options for such events.

What makes a professional car wash more environmentally friendly than my home wash?

Automatic and self-service car washes use water efficient equipment, such as computer controlled systems and high-pressure nozzles and pumps, to clean cars thoroughly while conserving water.

Professional car washes use an average of 32 gallons of water per vehicle. If this sounds like a lot of water, consider this: Washing your car at home can use *up to twice this amount*. In fact, some studies show that washing your car in the driveway can use up to 10 times more water than taking your car to a professional car wash.

The Clean Water Act, established by the government in 1972, mandates professional car washes to pipe dirty water to treatment facilities or into state-approved drainage facilities.

I can do a better job washing my car at home.

In reality, a professional car wash will clean your car better in a shorter amount of time and with less wasted water. With high pressure application equipment, a professional wash can quickly and efficiently apply the soap, water and other wash treatments in precise amounts so that nothing is wasted. In addition car washes can offer undercarriage washing and specially-formulated protectants that will keep your car cleaner longer and protect it from harsh environmental factors like damaging sun rays, acid rain and road salt.

What happens when I wash my car at home?

Car washing at home creates wastes water and leads to water pollution. Most people who wash their vehicles at home don't realize where the contaminated water goes or how much water is wasted.

Home car washing releases contaminated water directly into storm drains intended for rainwater and causes pollution in rivers, lakes and streams. Water reclaim systems at professional car washes recycle water and eliminate the use of hard water on the vehicle in order to get a spot-free rinse; this recycling cannot be done in driveways.