

Car Wash Fundraiser – Green or Toxic?

How can this be a question, you might ask? Green or Toxic?

I don't want my students/children/children's friends exposed to toxic products during a car wash fund raiser!

Are there other choices?

YES!

In this post I have explained the "how" and the "why" of putting on a Green Car Wash Fund Raiser. I look forward to your comments, at the end of this blog post. If you are in the Eugene or Springfield, OR area (and many other areas in the country also have these kits) you can borrow a Fish-Friendly Car Wash kit.



Planning a Car Wash? Choose our stormwater-friendly kit for your fund-raising event

Borrow our free, fish-friendly car wash kits to keep soap suds out of storm drains and rivers.

To learn more, check out our online video at happyivers.org. To reserve a kit, call 541-682-4929 in Eugene or 541-726-3694 in Springfield.



5 steps to a non-toxic Green CarWash Fundraiser:

1. Educate:

- a. This short (3 min) video does a great job explaining what the issues are, and how to address them, in a fish-friendly way. <http://youtu.be/cZy2Zo5wxuE>
- b. Where we live, Eugene, OR, all of our storm water drains to the local rivers. This storm water system was designed to move rain water. filters, no treatment plants, no processing of storm water – just straight to the local summer we swim in our rivers, we fish in our children and dogs play in the rivers... Doesn't clean river would be a great idea?
- c. Did you know that when you wash a car, you soap (usually toxic), oil, chemicals and heavy metals?



There are no any kind of the rivers. During the rivers, our it sound like a are washing off:

2. Ask questions:

- a. In your neighborhood, where does your storm/street water go? When you or your neighbors wash your car, and the water runs down the street, where does it end up? The answer might surprise you.
- b. What are you planning on using as soap? Have you read the label? Do you know what's in it? This is a great question to ask the car washing team. The answers will surprise you! And not in a good way.

- c. When you are scouting out locations, walk around. How is the water drained away from your site? Is there lots/some trash in the location that may be washed down the drains? Cigarette butts, wrappers, lots of oil on the pavement and other trash, etc.
- d. Does the location have access to a grass or gravel area where the water could soak into the ground and be naturally filtered?
- e. Is there a place where you can run a waste hose (into the sew system), so the water can be filtered?
- f. Info on toxins in detergent cleaners:
 - i. Environmental working group: <http://www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners>
 - ii. EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserves/materials/pubs/hhw-safe.htm>
 - iii. Where to purchase a multipurpose non-toxic, organic, biodegradable cleaner -[click here](#).

3. About the Car

- a. Often, using a detergent based cleaner (conventional products) can break down the wax on the car, stripping the wax away and leaving the paint dull and unprotected. This is not a good marketing tool for your fund raising car wash!
- b. Good car wash soaps are not made up of detergents and will be rich in lubricants (why? To help the grime glide off the car).
- c. Tempted to use a “cheap” conventional detergent product? Think again. The owner of the car will be unhappy with the results and remember the drains to streams? Do you really want to swim in that detergent?

4. Saving Water with the 3 bucket system:

- a. Did you know that a 5/8 inch hose running at 50 pounds per square inch uses 10 gallons of water per minute, compared to washing your car at a self-serve car wash for only 11.1 gallons?
- b. The average amount of water used to wash a vehicle, using a low-flow nozzle is approximately 20 gallons. How many cars will you wash during your fund raiser?
- c. Some estimates on amount of water used are between 80 to over 100 gallons, per car!
- d. Use a spray nozzle with an automatic shut-off to wet and rinse the cars.
- e. Use the 3 bucket method a) first bucket is for the wheels and rims, b) second bucket is for clean water and c) the third bucket is for soap.
- f. Wring the sponges and washrags into the bucket, not the ground.
- g. Empty the buckets into the sewer system (into a sink NOT the storm drain)

5. It's the Law!

- a. The Clean Water Act, which turned 40 in October, 2012 mandates the protection of all freshwater in the United States. This legislation was needed because of all the pollution in our water ways, the dead fish in our lakes, the fires on our lakes and water ways.

Wondering about your local water ways? Check out this app from EPA:

<http://watersgeo.epa.gov/mywaterway/>

For the Eugene/Springfield, Oregon area...

FISH-FRIENDLY CAR WASH



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Fish-Friendly Carwash Kit Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=cZy2Zo5wxuE



Looking for more information on non-toxic products? Feel free to contact us Robin@FeelSoALive.biz

and browse our web site: www.FeelSoAlive.biz or txt/call: 541.525.0703