Washing tips

Keep temperatures cold

- Use **cold water** for outdoor washing.
- If warm water is needed, **wash indoors** over a drain connected to the wastewater system.
- **Improve shade.** Trees and landscaping help cool pavement and lower water temperatures.

Heat is an invisible pollutant that impacts Springfield's waterways and the entire Willamette River system.

Avoid soaps and detergents

- **Do not use soap** when washing on pavement.
- If soap is needed, wash **indoors** or on a **porous surface** where water can soak into soil.
- Keep soapy water **out of storm drains** and open channels.

There is no soap that is safe for rivers, including biodegradable soaps. Soaps change water chemistry and reduce oxygen levels for fish.

Keep dirty water off pavement

- Wash on lawn, gravel, or other **porous surface**.
- **Divert water** to landscaping when possible.
- **Block runoff** with rolled towels (or booms), **clean up** any trapped debris, and **throw it out.**

Dirt, leaves, moss, grease, and debris clog pipes and smother aquatic life downstream.

Stop chemical runoff

- **Store chemicals under cover** or indoors.
- **Clean up spills** right away.
- Keep chemicals **off hard surfaces** like driveways.

During rain or outdoor washing, chemicals like fertilizers, pesticides, grease, and vehicle fluids on pavement can wash into storm drains.

Car Wash Kits for fundraisers

Planning to raise money by hosting a car wash?

You can borrow a Car Wash Kit for FREE! It blocks the storm drain and uses a pump to safely redirect dirty water. Contact the Stormwater Team to reserve your kit.

See pollution? Report it

If you see dirty water, vehicle leaks, spills, or dumping into the stormwater system, let us know.

- Reports can be anonymous.
- The City's Stormwater Team provides clean-up and education.

Find out more: **bit.ly/reportwaterpollution**

STORMWATER TEAM
City of Springfield, Oregon
SpringfieldStreams.org • 541-726-3694
WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

SPRINGFIELD OREGON

OUTDOOR WASHING

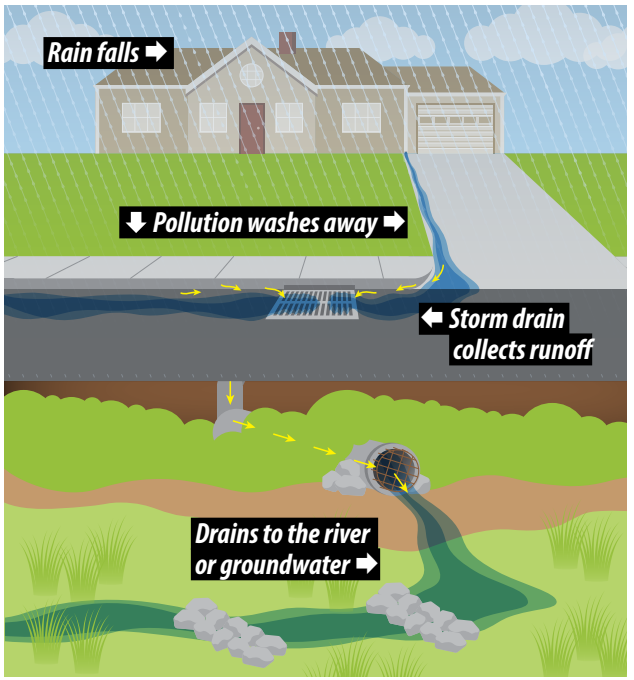
Protect the Willamette, the McKenzie, and all the neighborhood waterways that flow to them.

Good outdoor washing habits

We take pride in having **clean homes, vehicles, and businesses.** We also want **clean rivers** where we can fish, swim, and float. In Springfield, those things are connected.

Outdoor washing does not make dirt and grime disappear, it sends it away with the wash water.

When that dirty water reaches the pavement, and rain or pressure washing washes it away, it can flow into storm drains, out to neighborhood waterways, then to the McKenzie or Willamette rivers.



Water quality matters

The federal **Clean Water Act** shapes **City Code 4.372**, which prohibits anything other than rain from entering the stormwater system, including dirty water from outdoor washing. Runoff comes from **many surfaces** across the city, so preventing river pollution starts **on each property.**

Added considerations

Some types of outdoor washing need extra care. The ***Washing Tips*** on the flip side of this page still apply. The information below covers added considerations for specific situations.

Vehicles & Equipment

Cars, trailers, boats, RVs, mowers, etc.

Best option:

Use a commercial car wash. Dirty water is piped to the wastewater treatment plant to be cleaned.

Alternate options:

- ✓ Wash on lawn, gravel, or another **porous surface**.
- ✓ Keep water **off pavement** and away from storm drains.
- ✓ **Direct runoff** to landscaping or **filter it** with towels or booms.

For businesses:

Businesses that wash more than 8 vehicles per week must get a **Wash Water Permit** from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The permit outlines required best practices.

Horizontal surfaces

Driveways, patios, parking lots, etc.

Before washing:

- ✓ **Use dry clean-up methods** so there's no debris to be washed away by flowing water. Sweep, vacuum, blow, etc. Send it to the lawn or collect and trash it.
- ✓ **Absorb spills,** don't hose them down. Use kitty litter, disposable rags, or other absorbent material, and throw in the trash.

During washing:

- ✓ Keep wash water out of streets and storm drains.
- ✓ Direct runoff to landscaping. If not possible, filter or collect it.

Vertical surfaces

Siding, fences, etc.

Main concern:

Paint chips, moss, and debris reaching streets and drains.

Capture debris:

- ✓ **Aim runoff at the lawn**, if possible.
- ✓ If not possible, use a **drop cloth** or **rolled towels** to catch debris as the water flows. **Collect** and **dispose** of loosened material.*

Paint waste:

- ✓ Clean-up water for **latex paint** is allowed down indoor drains connected to the wastewater system.
- ✓ Clean-up for **oil-based paint** is hazardous waste and goes to the Glenwood Transfer Station.

**Paint from buildings older than 1978 may contain lead and must be handled as hazardous waste.*