

To Our Local Businesses and Organizations:

It is that time of year again when your business or organization may be approached to hold a fundraising car wash in your parking lot. Orting Public Works wants to remind you that sending all the soapy water down the storm drain is not only harmful to streams, rivers and Puget Sound, it is also a violation of local, state and federal pollution laws.

Realizing that car washes are an important fundraising tool for many groups in the community, the City of Orting has made available a "Car Wash Kit" for use during these events free of charge. The car wash kit is designed to capture the soapy water and divert it to a sanitary sewer line or grassy swale to infiltrate. Water that flows into storm drains goes untreated into nearby wetland, stream, and rivers, which eventually reaches the Puget Sound.

If there are any questions on how to hold a 'fish friendly' car wash or would like more information regarding the car wash kits, please contact the program coordinator, Laura Post, at (360) 893-2219, x139.



## **Did you know that car washing is environmentally damaging?**

### **Why is Car Washing Damaging to the Environment?**

- Pollutants in car wash water that is discharged to storm drains are not removed and end up in our lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, and other waterways.
- Wash water contains dirt, road grime, oil and grease, heavy metals, and soaps, which can destroy aquatic habitat and the quality of our water.

### **What Can You Do To Protect Our Water?**

- If you are washing your car at home, wash it on a grassy or gravel area, where the wash water will soak into the soil and won't drain directly to a surface water or storm drain.
- Use a commercial car wash facility. All wash water is treated (through the sanitary sewer system) and most water is recycled.
- Use a flow control device on your hose, such as a hand spray nozzle with an on and off trigger. Less wash water will need to be diverted to a sanitary sewer drain or grassy/gravelly area.

***REMEMBER: All soaps, even biodegradable ones, are toxic to fish. Don't allow soap to enter storm drains!***