



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities

Department of Stormwater

204 E. Jefferson Street

Goshen, Indiana 46528

574-534-2201

Stormwater Superintendent:

Dustin Sailor

Stormwater Coordinator:

Jason Kauffman— 537-3832

Washing Your Vehicle Could Impact the River

Most people who live or work in Goshen own at least one vehicle, sometimes more than one. Overtime these vehicles become dirty due to dust, salt, bird droppings, insects, tree debris, etc. It is important to periodically clean the dirt off the vehicle to keep it in good condition. Where and how you wash your vehicle is significant because of the pollutants, like sediment, metals, and automotive fluids, washed off by soapy water. If the soapy wash water is allowed to flow into the street it can pick up other pollutants on its way to a storm drain and flow directly to one of our local waterways untreated.

If you are a city employee and drive a city vehicle, you are to use one of the two wash bays located at the Street Department, where the wash water drains to the sanitary sewer. The smaller bay is for regular vehicles and the larger bay is for large vehicles and heavy machinery. Contact the Street Department for the key code to the wash bay doors. When you are done washing your vehicle make sure to clean up all the brushes, buckets, and hoses so they are ready for the next person to use and make sure to pick up and dispose of all trash in the garbage can provided. Remember the use of this facility is a privilege and can be taken away if it is abused.



For personal vehicles you can either wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash or at home. A commercial car wash is very efficient in the amount of water used, in the capture, reuse of the water, and finally the disposal of the wash water to the sanitary sewer. These steps keep stormwater pollutants out of nearby storm drains and our local waterways.



If you decide to wash your vehicle at home park it in the grass or on gravel instead of your driveway or the street. This will allow the wash water to soak into the grass or gravel where the soap and other pollutants will be neutralized instead of running into a nearby storm drain. Other steps to follow are:

- Use nontoxic, biodegradable, and phosphate-free soaps and use it sparingly.
- Use a spray nozzle so you control when and how much water comes out of your hose. This will reduce stormwater runoff and your overall water bill.
- Wring out sponges, rags, and towels over a bucket, a sink, or the grass and not concrete or asphalt.
- Empty wash water into a sink, toilet, or the grass.
- Use a waterless car wash product for spot-cleaning.

Sources and For More Information

- Think & Act Blue - Car Washing: <http://1.usa.gov/1UO7DFy>
- EPA - What You Can Do: In Your Home: <http://1.usa.gov/24OSuqc>
- Alliance for Water Efficiency - Vehicle Wash Introduction: <http://bit.ly/1U8nLiR>



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Cigarette Butts - Stormwater Pollutant of Concern

When you walk outside the first piece of litter you are likely to see is a cigarette butt. (Try it and see.) When cigarette butts are disposed of improperly two things can happen 1) start a forest or field fire and/or 2) become a stormwater/environmental pollutant. Here are some staggering facts about cigarette butts:



- They are the most littered item in the United States and make up 38% of all roadside litter. They are the number one item littered worldwide too.
- Billions of cigarettes are sold in the United States each year, and approximately 1/3 of them find their way into our local waterways and oceans.
- 99% of cigarettes sold have plastic (cellulose acetate) filters, which will break into smaller pieces but never biodegrade or disappear.
- Toxic organic chemicals and heavy metals seep out of cigarette butts and can kill aquatic wildlife and are poisonous if ingested.
- Cigarette butt waste is expensive to clean up and the costs are usually covered by taxpayers and local municipalities. In San Francisco more than \$7 million is spent annually to clean up wayward cigarette butts.



If you choose to smoke please be responsible and dispose of your cigarette butts in appropriate receptacles. If there are not enough outdoor ashtrays available where you work, live, or play please consider carrying a pocket ashtray for proper disposal of cigarette butts (picture courtesy of www.pocket-ashtrays.com). You can also ask your place of work or local government to provide more disposal options.

Information obtained from the following websites:

- LA Stormwater: <http://bit.ly/1ZRmlgz>
- Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights: <http://bit.ly/1WNK3wd>
- Cigarette Butt Pollution Project: www.cigwaste.org

Report an Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see something that doesn't look right please call 574-534-2201, send an email to jasonkauffman@gohsencity.com, or submit a Stormwater Report through the City of Goshen's new "Report an Issue" button in the upper corner of the City's website (www.goshenindiana.org).



Tree roots will do amazing things including growing to great lengths to reach water, seen here along Rock Run Creek.

