

PRESSURE WASHING & VEHICLE DETAILING



Chapter 12 - Utilities, Section 12-22

Under the Clean Water Act, federal law requires Wilmington to enforce ordinances to protect surface waters from pollution. **Washwater from commercial pressure washing or vehicle detailing, which contains soap or chemicals, is prohibited from entering the storm drainage system.**

Washwater contains pollution such as soap, dirt, oil, grease, chemicals, and heavy metals which can enter storm drains and flow directly into creeks and waterways. Polluted washwater harms aquatic habitat, recreational waters, and drinking water supplies.

FINES UP TO \$10,000!

Options for complying with the ordinance:

- Use pressure or steam, but no soap or chemicals when washing
- Divert washwater to a landscaped or grassy area
- Set up a containment system to collect, contain and properly dispose of washwater
- Completely cover storm drains to prevent water from entering, then vacuum up the washwater and dispose of properly
- When cleaning vehicles, rinse with plain water or take to a commercial car wash. You can also “spot wash” using a spray bottle and rag.
- Remember, even products labeled “biodegradable” or “non-toxic” can be harmful to the aquatic environment

Questions?

Call City Stormwater Compliance

910.341.0092

www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater

