

STORMWATER

KEEP IT CLEAN



Car Care Solutions

Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect.

Water used for washing cars carries dirt, oil, motor fluids and suds with it. This water can travel over hard surfaces like streets, making its way into storm drains. This unfiltered water flows into local lakes and streams polluting our waterways.



**Keep our rivers, lakes, and
beaches *clean.***



Use the Car Wash

Car wash facilities treat wastewater before discharging it. This allows the water to be cleaned before reentering the environment.

Car Care Tips



Wash it

Use the car wash. If washing the car at home, do so on the grass. Use as little biodegradable soap as necessary to do the job.



Maintain it

Maintain your vehicle regularly. Perform maintenance on hard surfaces and soak up leaks using cat litter.



Recycle it

Take used fluids and oils to your community's household hazardous waste collection site or businesses that accept used oil.

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 3415 28th Street, Port Huron

 www.scchealth.co



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Earth-Friendly Landscaping

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Landscape with plants native to Michigan. Native plants require less fertilizer and less water. Place mulch about four inches thick around trees and plants to help retain water and reduce weed growth. Only water lawns and landscaping when necessary.



Keep our rivers, lakes, and beaches *clean*.



Don't Over Mow

Lawns should be cut to three inches in length. Tall grass holds water better and shades out weeds. Grass clippings also provide natural fertilizer when left to compost naturally.

Landscaping Tips



Water wisely

Use a rain barrel to collect and reuse rainwater. This reduces water usage.



Fertilizer

Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly. Limit application of these chemicals to problem areas only.



Permeable materials

Construct patios, walkways and driveways using permeable materials such as pavers, in place of concrete or asphalt. This allows water to filter through.

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Clean-up After Pets

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Animal waste contains bacteria, including *E.coli*. This bacteria can be washed into waterways or down storm drains when not properly disposed of, making water unsafe for swimming. Always clean up after pets and dispose of animal waste.



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beaches *clean*.**



Don't Feed Wildlife

Avoid feeding ducks and geese. Feeding waterfowl causes them to become dependent on humans leading to unnaturally high populations. This affects water quality.

Pet Waste Tips



Waste disposal

Promptly dispose of pet waste in the trash.



Lawn care

Pick up pet waste before mowing or watering the lawn.



Tell your friends

Let others know about how important collecting pet waste is for the health of the water.

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Use Fertilizer Sparingly

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Proper fertilizer application can enhance lawns. Fall is the best time for plants to absorb nutrients and strengthen root systems. Wait until the lawn has been mowed twice before fertilizing in the spring.



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Use the Proper Product

Fertilizers labeled, “all purpose” or “lawn and garden,” contain too much phosphorus. Look for a fertilizer with zero phosphorus.

Fertilizing Tips



Spreader

Use a spreader to ensure the proper ratio of fertilizer is spread.



Placement

Keep fertilizer on the lawn and off hard surfaces like driveways and roads.



Watering

Most lawns need about one inch of water per week. Short frequent waterings are recommended.

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Household Hazardous Waste

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Many household products require specific disposal practices to protect the environment and waterways. Cleaners, chemicals, paint, batteries, and oils should be properly stored and disposed using best practices.



Keep our rivers, lakes, and beaches *clean.*



Use Natural Products

Using biodegradable products reduces pollution and supports sustainable practices. These products are healthier for the environment and safer for our waterways.

Disposal Tips



Read labels

Products labeled: danger, explosive, poison, flammable or caution, may require special disposal practices.



Product storage

Keep products in original containers with intact labels. Store in cool dry areas that are away from the reach of children and pets.



Local disposal

Smith's Creek Landfill is our local disposal site. Call (810) 989-6981 to make an appointment and learn more.

6779 Smiths Creek Road
Smiths Creek, MI

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Storm Drain Care

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Storm water flows over the land and across hard surfaces into storm drains eventually making its way into rivers and lakes. This water is unfiltered and carries with it surface pollutants. Preventing harmful materials from entering storm drains protects our waters.



**Keep our rivers, lakes, and
beaches *clean.***



Only Rain Down the Drain

Never put anything down a storm drain. Dumping waste, leaf litter, oil, chemicals and even soapy water pollutes our waterways.

Stormwater Tips



Hard surfaces

Remove chemicals and fertilizers from hard surfaces by sweeping up products.



Yard waste

Keep yard waste away from storm drains by collecting and removing excess clippings, debris and leaves.



Report concerns

It's illegal to discharge anything into a storm drain. If you see something, report it. St. Clair County's Water Quality Tip Line can be reached at (810) 987-7253.

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