

August

Going to the Car Wash

By Jacquelyn Buck

This August, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality, is encouraging residents to wash your car at a car wash or in a grassy area! When we hand wash our cars on a paved surface, all the detergents, dirt, and chemicals coming off your car head straight to our rivers. This is because most paved areas are made out of impervious surfaces such as blacktop, concrete, or cement. Impervious surfaces do not allow water through them, but instead, usher it to the nearest ditch or storm drain. Therefore, by simply moving where you wash your car, you can help improve water quality!

When we wash our cars in the grass versus one of the previously mentioned impervious surfaces, we allow the grass to help filter out contaminants before they make their way to a stream! Grass helps to slow down detergents, dirt, and chemicals that come off our car, often times repurposing them. In addition, when we wash our car on the grass, we can eliminate one of the times we water the lawn for that week.



Easier yet, head to a car wash! These facilities are often times designed with water quality in mind. Many even [recycle the water before they send it off to wastewater facilities](#) where the water is treated before being released into the rivers!

Take that extra step this month and refrain from washing your car on your driveway to help improve water quality in our rivers. This simple step can leave both your car and our rivers cleaner!