

The City of Dana Point thanks you for taking the time to read this short brochure to understand the water quality rules and tips to keep your car clean while preventing impacts to the creeks, beaches and ocean.

Should you have any questions, please contact the City's Water Quality Engineer at 949-248-3584.

*The City of Dana Point  
Harboring the Good Life*

City of Dana Point  
Public Works—Water Quality Division  
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# Car Washing Rules

**Requirements to  
prevent  
water pollution  
&  
conserve water.**



**City of Dana Point  
Public Works—Water Quality Division  
Protect Our Earth—Protect Our Ocean**

March 2017

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What Are My Options?

- Go to a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Use a waterless cleaning product.
- Hire a mobile detailer that provides own source of water & has the proper equipment to contain and dispose of wash water.
- "Do-It-Yourself", following the guidelines provided on the next page.

## Why is Car Washing A Concern?

Water supplies remain a concern and water conservation measures are prudent.

Car washing activities generate pollutants, such as heavy metals, bacteria soaps and detergents, oil & grease, toxic chemicals, acids and alkalis, and sediment & also result in a non-stormwater discharge.

Without pollution prevention measures, these pollutants drain from the driveway, streets and gutters into the storm drain system, causing pollution of our creeks, beaches and ocean.

The rules are in effect to prevent water pollution of our creeks, beaches and ocean, which are vital to our quality of life & our economy & to help prevent water waste.

## So, Is It Legal to Wash My Car?

Yes, it is legal to wash your car. However, you must take certain precautions to save water, prevent water pollution and comply with State law.

## What Can Happen If I Don't Follow the Rules?

Fines of up to \$1,000 may be issued (DPMC 15.10.040) for violations! Make sure you are in compliance by following the guidelines described in this brochure.

## How Can I "Do-It-Myself" ?

The following guidelines will help you maintain compliance with regulations.

- ✓ Check with current water use guidelines to make sure car washing is allowed.
- ✓ Minimize water use. You must use a bucket and hose with an automatic shut off nozzle.
- ✓ Use cleaning products as described on their labels and dispose of them properly. Even "biodegradable" products adversely impact our waterways.
- ✓ Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trash can—not on the street or driveway.
- ✓ Wash the vehicle on a vegetated or gravel surface where wash water can soak into the ground without creating runoff; OR

Use sand bags or another device to create a berm to contain/direct/divert the wash water. It can then be sucked up with a wet vac for disposal in a utility sink, sewer clean out, or toilet or directed to a landscaped area to be absorbed.

### SPECIAL NOTES:

- Please ensure that wash water completely soaks into the vegetation/ground to alleviate vector concerns and prevent unintentional runoff.



### REMEMBER!

Dirty, soapy water running into the gutter, street or storm drain is considered a violation, even from your driveway!



### TIP!

Using a bucket and a hose with an automatic shut off nozzle helps you comply with water conservation rules, reduces water waste and also saves you money!

### TIP! Local Places for Sand Bags:

#### Ganahl Lumber:

949-496-5765

#### Saddleback Sandbags:

1-800-286-7263

#### Sepulveda Building Materials:

949-347-2100

#### White Cap Industries:

949-493-9448

### TIP!

A wet vac can be used to collect the wash water before it drains off your property. You can then dump the water in a landscaped area or down a utility sink or toilet.



## Who makes these Rules?

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has mandated that the City regulate any discharges to the storm drain system. This includes polluted car wash water and even irrigation runoff! Please refer to Dana Point Municipal Code, Chapter 15, [www.danapoint.org/municipalcode](http://www.danapoint.org/municipalcode).

Water providers, such as South Coast Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District and San Juan Capistrano Utilities are required to implement a water conservation program to address water waste and supply.