

NEWS

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County Stormwater Program offers car wash discounts

San Bernardino County's stormwater pollution prevention program recently launched a car wash discount campaign to encourage residents to wash their cars at commercial car washes rather than in their driveways.

Commercial car washes send their wastewater into sewer systems, from where it is eventually treated. Washing your car at home sends detergents and other toxins directly to storm drains, which flow directly into streams and rivers.

"Arranging for car wash discounts is a good way to direct dangerous water to treatment facilities and away from our fragile ecosystem," said Pavlova Vitale, the County's Areawide Stormwater Program Manager.

Between now and August 31, any San Bernardino County resident can download a free discount coupon from the program's website (www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash) and redeem it at any of the participating car washes.

The program has partnered with 11 car wash facilities in Upland, Ontario, Colton, Highland, Redlands and Yucaipa to offer deals and discounts to residents in an effort to reduce water pollution caused by residential car washing. The program is currently enlisting additional car wash partners to participate in this effort. To find a full list of car washes and deals they offer, visit www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash.

Wash water from residential car washing contains toxins like oil, grease and detergents that can be harmful to the environment if they enter the storm drain as the water eventually flows into our streams and rivers. Washing the car in a professional car wash is the best way to prevent water pollution because commercial car wash facilities will send the wash water to a wastewater treatment plant preventing it from entering the storm drain system.

The campaign is part of the San Bernardino County Stormwater Program, a public education program working to educate residents and businesses about stormwater pollution prevention in San Bernardino County. To learn more about the program visit sbcountystormwater.org.