



Pierce County

Public Works and Utilities
Surface Water Management

Free Car Wash Kit Program

Why car wash kits?

The Pierce County Surface Water Management division would like to change charity car wash programs that send soapy water into storm drains. Soapy water goes untreated into local rivers, lakes, streams, and Puget Sound causing serious water quality issues that harm fish and other species. By making car wash kits more accessible to the public at locations geographically dispersed throughout the community, we come closer to reaching our goal of protecting local waterways.

How does a car wash kit work?

A kit includes instructions, tools, storm drain insert, hose, extension cord, and a pump. First, remove the storm drain grate and insert the drain insert (tub) into its place. Attach a hose to the submersible pump and place the pump in the drain insert. The other end of the hose is placed in a sewer outlet or vegetated area so that when the pump is turned on soapy water is either sent to the sewer treatment plant or soaks into the ground.

Additional items included with your free car wash kit are: A sidewalk sandwich board advertising the “Fish Friendly Car Wash” and a CD with handout-templates that can be modified by your organization to be given to car wash patrons.

Who is eligible to apply for a free car wash kit?

Individual schools, school districts, tribes, local governments, special districts and community organizations, including non-profits, community centers, etc. Car wash kits will not be distributed to for-profit organizations, due to limited supplies. For instructions to build your own kit, or links to companies that sell kits, go to www.piercecountywa.org/carwash.

By submitting an application, you agree to the following if you are awarded a car wash kit:

- Pierce County Surface Water Management division will be transferring ownership of the kit to your organization, and you will be responsible for maintenance of the kit and replacement of any lost or broken parts.
- A fee will not be required for kit checkout for charity car wash events.
- The Surface Water Management division has permission to advertise the availability of your kit to the public.
- The Surface Water Management division reserves the right to remove a car wash kit from any organization that does not comply with this agreement or for lack of use and award that kit to another organization.
- You are expected to return the car wash kit to the Surface Water Management Division should you no longer have a need for it.
- Report the events held each year using the car wash kit. We reserve the right to contact you for this information if you do not voluntarily report it.

How to submit the application:

- Mail the signed application to: Attn: Tiffany O’Dell, Pierce County PWU – Surface Water Management, 2702 S 42nd St, Suite 201, Tacoma, WA 98409
- Submit by email: To Tiffany O’Dell at todell@co.pierce.wa.us
- Submit by fax: Attention Tiffany O’Dell at (253)798-7709

Applicant Name		Date	
Organization			
Address	City	State	ZIP
Phone ()	Fax ()		
Email Address	Website:		
Public contact information to be displayed on our website and advertising materials – include, at a minimum, organization name, address, phone number and/or email:			
Address where kit will be stored or location where kit will be available for check-out:			

Briefly explain the following (use a separate sheet, if necessary, but no more than 3 sentences):

1. Describe your organization. (Include mission, size, membership, and funding)

2. Do you have any partners, and what role are they playing? (include school, organization, city and/or group names)

3. Tell us about how often, where, and when you plan to hold car washes.

4. Will the kit be available for check-out by other organizations for charity car washes? If so, how will this be organized / tracked?

5. How did you hear about this opportunity?

6. Does your organization have a car wash kit currently?

7. If you are proposing to use specific location for car washes, please provide that location.

Applicant Signature	Date
Print Name:	