



TMDLs

What Car Washes Need to Know

What is a TMDL?

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is the maximum number of pollutants a body of water can receive and still support its designated uses, such as fishing or recreation.

Why do they matter?

Chemicals and other waste from carwashes can pollute drinking water, cause algae blooms, harm wildlife, and endanger water treatment plant employees.

How can you help?

- Perform regular maintenance on all parts of your system.
- Properly handle and dispose of grit-trap waste - no leaks or odors!
- Cover wash bays to prevent stormwater from entering drains.
- Recycle and reuse wash water.
- Install low-flow nozzles or adjust flow to reduce water usage.
- Check all posted TCEQ rules and regulations (www.TexasEnviroHelp.org)
- Wash towels and rags in HE machines.
- Use biodegradable products instead of solvent-based or highly concentrated.
- Store fuel in above-ground tanks.

Primary Pollutants

- Oil
- Exhaust fume residue
- Brake pad dust
- Soap chemicals (phosphate)
- Excess suds



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What Restaurants Need to Know

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Why do they matter?

Fats, oils and grease (FOGs) used by restaurants in daily cooking can have serious consequences if not disposed of correctly. FOGs dumped down drains can block pipes and cause them to burst. Oil that reaches waterbodies can sit on the surface of lakes/ponds and prevent oxygen from reaching lower parts of the water column, thus harming aquatic flora and fauna.

How can you help?

- Compost food scraps
- Recycle used cooking oil (www.timetorecycle.com)
 - Recycled oil can be used to create biofuels.
- Seal FOGs in leak-proof containers and dispose
- Invest in a grease collection service

Primary Pollutants

- Fats
- Oils
- Grease
- Food scraps



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What Daycares Need to Know

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Why do they matter?

TMDLs allow organizations to correctly identify pollutants and take necessary measures to reduce them.

How can you help?

- Use natural cleaners that use vinegar or orange oil as the base.
 - Chemical cleaners can be difficult to remove from water and can mix together to create dangerous solutions and vapors that can harm wastewater workers.
 - Fumes and solutions can also be harmful to kids and employees.
 - Take unused and unwanted cleaners to local drop-off facilities ([Defend Your Drains North Texas](#))
- Don't flush wipes or paper towels
 - Even "flushable" wipes can block pipes, potentially causing them to burst.
- Use reusable cleaning utensils (i.e. sponges and rags)

Primary Pollutants

- Cleaning supplies
- Sanitary wipes
- "Flushable" wipes
- Food waste



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What Senior Living Centers Need to Know

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