

Help Stop Pointless Pollution.

Be a Part of the Cleanup of the Waterways in the Tennessee Valley.

Clean water is important to all of us. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from sources like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. Each of us can do our part to help clean up our water.

Why do we need clean water?

Clean water is important to our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. Everyone benefits from clean water.



*This information is
a part of the*

**Decatur
Clean Water ~
Clean Environment**

Did we get your attention? Good.

We take contaminated stormwater runoff seriously because clean water IS everyone's business. In the interest of public health and safety, join in the effort to keep our waterways pure.



A Grand City on a CHARMING SCALE

402 Lee Street NE,
Decatur, AL 35601
DecaturAlabamaUSA.com



*Follow us for a
better community.*



Clean Water Partnership

**CITY OF
DECATUR**
PUBLIC WORKS

1802 Central Parkway,
Decatur, AL 35601
DecaturAlabamaUSA.com

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for providing the information contained in this brochure.

www.adem.state.al.us

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Your Car in the Driveway,
Remember...

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All of the soap, scum and oily grit from your car run along the curb, then into the storm drain and directly into our rivers, bays and bayous. That causes pollution that is unhealthy for aquatic life. You can avoid this by washing your car on the grass or gravel instead of on the street or driveway. Or better yet, take it to the car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

What's the problem with car washing?

Many soaps contain phosphates and most car-care products contain chemicals that may harm fish and degrade water quality. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae sometimes looks or smells bad, and may be harmful to water quality. As algae decays, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need to survive.



**How can you wash your
car and help keep our
waters clean?**

- Best solution: take your car to a commercial car wash. Most car washes reuse water several times before sending it to the wastewater facility for treatment.
- Use soap that is chlorine- and phosphate-free.
- Use soap sparingly. Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or toilet when you're done, not in the street.
- Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water naturally.