



## City of Oceanside Charity Car Wash Guidelines



Below are guidelines to conduct a charity car wash. Also included is information for the property owner who would like to host a charity car wash on their property.

### Property owner information

- No permits are required or needed to hold a charity car wash.
- Per the City of Oceanside zoning code 30.7(a)(1), business owners can hold **one outdoor special event per month** which can include car washes, BBQs, special sales events, etc.
- Car washes cannot be held on two or more consecutive days at one site. As mentioned above business owners can hold one outdoor special event per month.
- You may need a Special Events Permit for your car wash event. Call the Special Events Office at 760-435-5540 or email [specialevents@oceansideca.org](mailto:specialevents@oceansideca.org).

### Charity Group information

- You must have permission from the property and/or business owner to hold a charity car wash on their site. It is suggested that you get permission in writing and have available during your event.
- Water from the car wash must not travel into the street, curb, gutter, or storm drain. Water must be pooled or captured on-site to prevent it from leaving the property where the car wash is held.
- You may need a Special Events Permit for your car wash event. Call the Special Events Office at 760-435-5540 or email [specialevents@oceansideca.org](mailto:specialevents@oceansideca.org).
- Wash vehicles using a bucket and a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle, or a mobile high pressure/low volume wash system. Avoid washing during hot conditions when additional water is required due to evaporation.

### Proper disposal of the dirty car wash water

- Sweep and clean the area where the water is to be captured prior to starting your car washing
- After water is pooled in one area, the wash water can be vacuumed up (for example by using a wet-vac) for proper disposal.
- Wash water can be disposed into the property landscape as long as the landscape can absorb the quantities of water generated from the entire event and the property owner gives permission.
- Do not dispose of wash water on an adjacent parcel without permission from that specific property owner.
- Captured car wash water may only be disposed of to the sanitary sewer (such as an interior sink, floor drain or sewer cleanout) with permission of the private property owner AND provided that the wash water is free of sediments, debris, hazardous chemicals/materials AND is released at a rate that does not cause backup of the private sewer lateral and/or City sewer main. Any backups or damage to the City's sewer infrastructure, private property and/or private sewer lateral will be the sole responsibility of the property owner and/or permittee.
- The use of “biodegradable soaps” does not exempt anyone from the disposal options mentioned above.

Please contact the City of Oceanside’s Watershed Protection Program at [watershedprotection@oceansideca.org](mailto:watershedprotection@oceansideca.org) or call Customer Care at 760-435-4500 for additional questions and more information.