WASHING YOUR VEHICLE

Tools – Use a bucket and as little soap as possible, Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.

Disposal – Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or toilet when you’re done. Better yet, wash your car on a grassy slope so the ground can filter the water and soap naturally!

Commercial car wash – Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash that reuses wash water.

REPAIRING YOUR VEHICLE

Check – Check your car, boat, motorcycle or other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills and make repairs as soon as possible.

Spills – Clean up spilled fluids with absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, not by rinsing them into a nearby storm drain or arroyo. Then, properly dispose of the absorbent material with your household trash.

Used motor oil – Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or in a ditch. The best idea is to recycle your oil. Most auto parts supply stores and gas stations have recycling containers.

For more information, visit: www.keeptheriogrand.org
As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants – and can carry them to the Rio Grande.

Follow these tips to reduce stormwater pollution at your home.

**LAWN AND GARDEN**

**Fertilizer** - Use fertilizer sparingly according to the instructions and don’t fertilize before a rain storm.

**Compost** – Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. It will help reduce the amount of fertilizer your plants need, put your waste to good use, and send less material to the landfill.

**Disposal** – Prevent your grass clippings and leaves from washing into the storm drainage inlet.

**Watering** – Follow the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority’s 1-2-3-2-1 watering practices (www.abcwua.org) and don’t use your hose to sweep debris into storm drainage inlets. Also, prevent water from going on paved areas such as sidewalks or driveways and other places that empty into storm drainage inlets.

**Planting** – Select plants and grasses that are native to the Southwest, drought-tolerant, and pest-resistant. They’ll require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

**Reduce Hard Surfaces** – Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of planted areas in your yard. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and into plantings.

**PET WASTE**

**Disposal** – Don’t leave pet waste on the ground! Use newspaper, bags or pooper scoopers to pick up waste and dispose of wrapped pet waste in the trash. Uncollected pet waste on city rights of way is a significant source of bacterial contamination of the Rio Grande.

**HOME REPAIR & IMPROVEMENT**

**Protect the Storm Drain** – Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain inlets and protect them from debris and other materials.

**Disposal** – Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar in the trash can. Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible. Follow directions on the label, clean up any spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Properly store any leftover materials to avoid leaks and spills.

**Environment** – Read labels carefully and seek to purchase nontoxic, biodegradable, environmentally responsible products. Recycle and use recycled products as often as possible.

**Cleanup** – Clean water-based paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Dispose of unused paint and used paint thinner at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility (see below). Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints.

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** – Can be disposed of for free by City of Albuquerque residents at Rinchem Company, 6133 Edith NE (on the west side of Edith between Montano and Osuna). Rinchem is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 345-3655.