

INFORMATION SHEET

THOUGHT? – I want to hold a car wash – what do I need to consider?

Charity carwashes are a fundraising option for community groups but care is needed to ensure that they are not held at the expense of the environment and that they don't create traffic problems or risks. If you want to hold one then you need to be able to properly deal with those issues.

QUESTION

Do you have permission to use the land and is there the potential for the wash water to drain to a stormwater drain – either on the site itself or via the kerb and channel (gutter) in the street?

CONSIDERATIONS: Only clean water and rain should enter the stormwater system as it discharges untreated to our streams. Contaminants such as detergents and wash water can harm streams. There are no environmentally friendly detergents. Ask yourself "Would I drink it or swim in it?" If the answer is "no" then it should not be discharged to the stormwater system. If the washwater has the potential to enter a stormwater drain then you and the land owner risk breaching the Resource Management Act (RMA). Contact the Trade Waste team at Council and an officer will advise you.

QUESTION

If the wash water would drain into a stormwater drain can you prevent or divert it?

ANSWER: Council's Trade Waste team will advise you if there are options, which could include usage of a small submersible pump to divert wash water from a stormwater sump to a sewer gully trap. You will need a suitable pump, hoses, electricity source, access to a sewer and a water source.

If it is a one-off event, Council may be able to help with some equipment for a refundable deposit if the equipment is returned in good working order. The pump must be kept off the bottom of the drain so that no silts go into it. There must be a person who will take responsibility for the equipment and return it to Council. You must not let the water flow onto other properties or create a nuisance.

QUESTION

Will the location impede traffic or create safety problems? You need to consider issues like; is it a busy main road, near a corner, will it conflict with another event (eg Hutt's Saturday market), is there adequate on-site parking to get waiting cars off the road? Will drivers be able to safely enter and exit the site?



ANSWER: Contact HCC's Parking Services and Road and Traffic teams to see if there are any objections to the car wash being held at the proposed site.

QUESTION

Other questions you may wish to ask yourself include: Will I have enough people and will they be able to conduct themselves in a safe manner? Will I need to have people looking after the exit and entrance to the site? Will any hoses or power cables/pumps be safe and not in danger of getting driven over, or walked on and sumps protected from people falling in them? Are pedestrians going to be able to still get past safely?

Please talk to us and seek our advice before holding a charity carwash as not all sites will be suitable and diversion of washwater to sewer may not be possible. Our aim is to protect our streams from harm.

**For further information contact our
Trade Waste Officers at Hutt City Council | 04 570 6666**