

Did you know ?

Biodegradable soap is toxic to aquatic life.

If you are surprised, you are not alone. Many times the Mill Creek Surface Water Utility finds people washing cars and other items using biodegradable soap, who think it is okay for this to go into the storm drain system. This is not okay.

Most people assume “biodegradable” implies that it is safe for the environment. If you don’t understand how it works, it can be as harmful as regular soap.

While biodegradable does mean that the product will break down in the environment, there are still concerns as to how long it takes to break down and under what conditions. It is recommended that biodegradable soap be used at least 200 feet from a body of water and be able to infiltrate into the ground before reaching a water body such as a storm drain, pond, lake or stream.

Under Mill Creek Municipal Code Section 15.14.230, discharge of polluting matter is prohibited. This includes soapy water.

