

Household Stormwater Pollution

PREVENTION TIPS

ABOUT HOUSEHOLD STORMWATER POLLUTION

Household stormwater pollution happens when contaminants from homes and cars go down the storm drains. When it rains, the pollutants from our yards, vehicles, and pets are carried away to the storm drains. The polluted water flows – untreated – to our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. As our population continues to grow, the pollution problem is getting worse.

By making simple but conscientious choices, you'll do your part to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations.



COMMON SOURCES OF HOUSEHOLD POLLUTION

- Motor oil and antifreeze from parking areas and driveways
- Soapy water from car washing
- Fertilizers and pesticides on lawns
- Pet waste

HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT POLLUTION AT HOME

VEHICLES

- Use a commercial car wash
- Keep your car, boat, motorcycle, and other equipment well-maintained and leak-free
- Clean drips and spills with absorbent pads, cat litter, or sand and put it in the garbage before the next rainfall
- Don't dump oils and chemicals to the ground or stormwater system – take them to a disposal site like the Wastemobile instead



LAWN, GARDEN, AND PETS

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, if at all
- Plant native plants and grasses
- Keep yard waste and debris away from storm drains
- Pick up your pet's waste in public and at home, bag it, and throw it in the trash – **not** your yard waste bin

AT HOME

- Choose non-toxic, biodegradable products
- Pour carpet cleaning wastewater in the sanitary sewer (inside) – not a storm drain (outside)
- Don't let hazardous materials pile up in your home – both inside and outside
- Dispose of all hazardous products at a designated collection site like the Wastemobile

LEARN MORE

Visit bothellwa.gov/pugetsound and pugetsoundstartshere.org for more ways to help.

