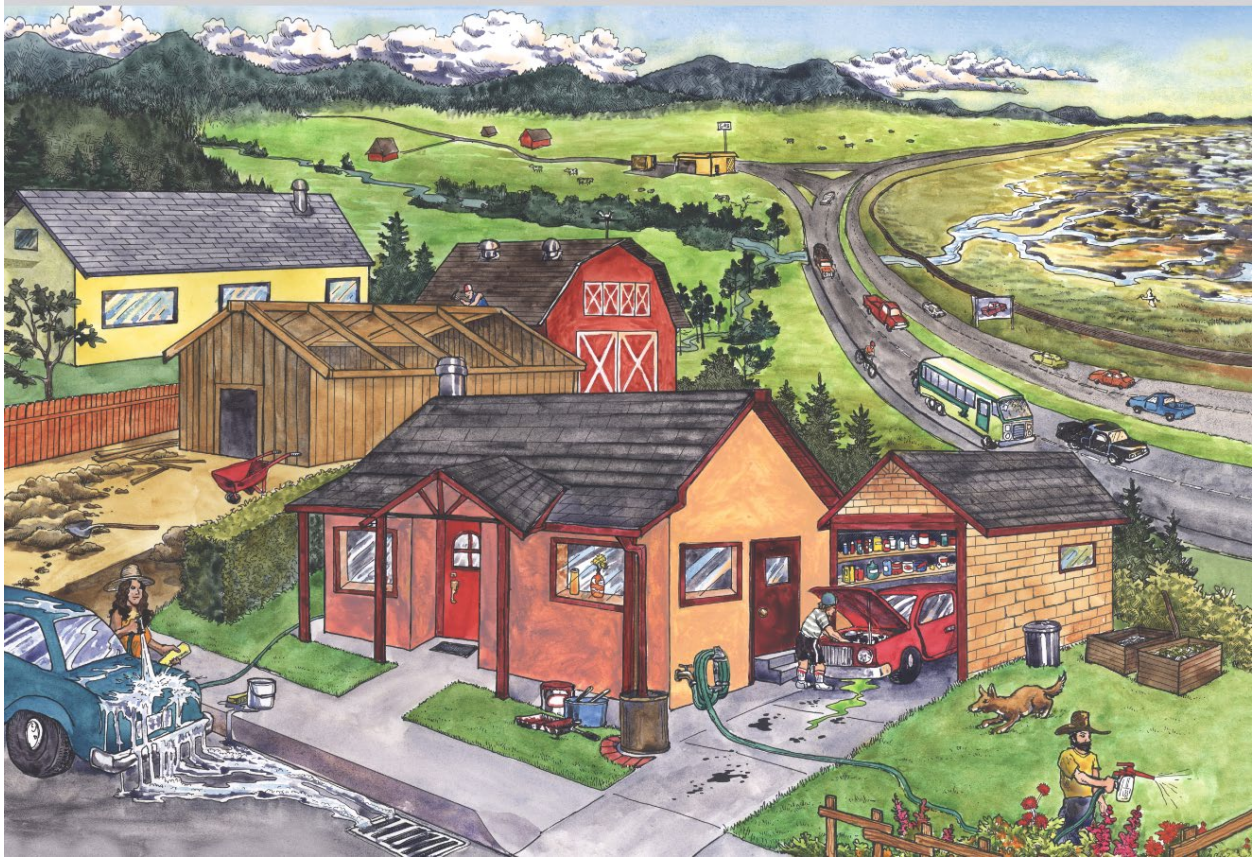


Stormwater impacts on receiving waters.

**10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT
STORMWATER POLLUTION**

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology and related local partners, here are the top ways to prevent stormwater pollution:

1. **Never dump anything down storm drains:** Storm drains flow directly into fish-bearing streams and lakes, not into a treatment plant.
2. **Pick up pet waste:** Pet waste carries bacteria that pollute waterways and should be bagged and put in the trash.
3. **Check your car for leaks:** Fix oil and fluid leaks immediately and recycle used motor oil.
4. **Use a commercial car wash:** Commercial car washes treat their water. If washing at home, do so over a lawn or gravel to soak up the water.
5. **Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly:** Reduce or eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, especially before a rainstorm.
6. **Pick up litter:** Prevent litter from being carried to storm drains by rain.
7. **Compost yard waste:** Avoid dumping leaves and grass clippings into streets or drains.
8. **Vegetate bare spots in your yard:** Prevent soil erosion by planting, which helps filter runoff.
9. **Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces:** Divert gutters to rain gardens or lawns, rather than down the driveway.
10. **Maintain your septic system:** Inspect your system regularly to prevent failures and water contamination.



1. NEVER DUMP ANYTHING DOWN THE STORM DRAINS

Storm drains flow directly into fish-bearing streams and lakes, not into a treatment plant. Any pollutants that enter the storm drains will be washed into nearby wetlands, streams, lakes, and rivers.



2. PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Pet waste carries bacteria that pollute waterways and should be bagged and put in the trash. Pet waste can lead to contamination of wetlands, streams, lakes, and rivers.

- Always pick-up dog waste and dispose of it in the trash. It should not be composted even in a biodegradable bag;
- Dispose of cat litter in the trash. **NEVER** flush cat litter down the toilet or compost it.



3. REPAIR FLUID LEAKS IN YOUR VEHICLES

Fix oil and fluid leaks immediately and recycle used motor oil. Check and/or repair fluid leaks in your cars & boats, and recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids. Never dump motor oil or other engine fluids down storm drains or onto the ground.



4. Use a Commercial car wash

Commercial car washes treat their water. If washing at home, do so over a lawn or gravel to soak up the water. Take your car to the car wash, where wash water is filtered and recycled, instead of washing it in the driveway. As many as 140 gallons of water can be used in a 10 minute home car wash. Most of the water is washed down the driveway along with soap, surfactants, oil, and sludge directly into storm drains and the environment, polluting rivers and lakes. Waste water from professional car washes is piped to water treatment facilities.



5. USE FERTILIZERS and PESTICIDES SPARINGLY

Reduce or eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, especially before a rainstorm. If you apply fertilizer shortly before a rainstorm, much of it will be washed into nearby storm drains, wetlands, streams, lakes, and rivers. So when you fertilize your lawn, apply it well in advance of a rainstorm, use it sparingly, use organic slow-

release fertilizers if possible, and always follow manufacturer's recommendations. Sweep up fertilizers from driveways, sidewalks, and roads.



8. VEGETATE BARE SPOTS IN YOUR LAWN

Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion. Also cover or vegetate any stockpiles of topsoil, mulch or other landscaping materials.



7. Compost Yard Waste

Dispose of your yard waste. Mulching returns nutrients back to the soil and eliminates yard waste. See the following additional helpful lawn maintenance information:



9. Direct Down Spouts away from paved surfaces

Divert gutters to rain gardens or lawns, rather than down the driveway. Direct Downspouts away from both your foundation and paved surfaces. Consider installing a rain garden or rain barrel as a great way to recycle water, and to use around the yard for watering gardens.



10. PROPER SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Have your septic system pumped and inspected regularly. An improperly operating/maintained septic system can lead to polluted surface and groundwater, and significant repair costs. Do not dispose of household chemicals down the drain, where they can enter your septic system and contaminate the groundwater.

Additional tips are available at these links:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0710058.pdf>

[5 tips for homeowners to prevent stormwater pollution - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)