

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

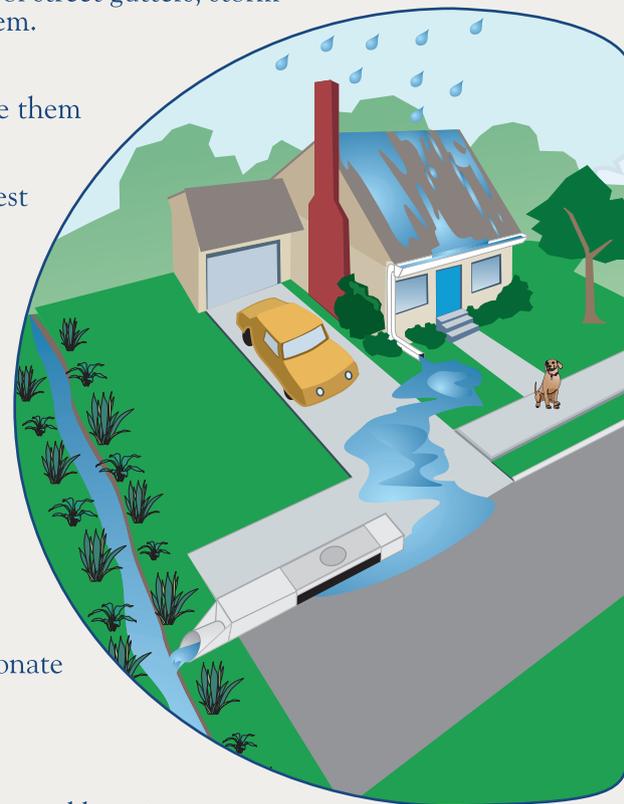
Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Lawn and Garden Maintenance

- Choose slow-release fertilizers and use sparingly. Avoid using pesticides. Don't apply fertilizers or pesticides if the forecast calls for rain, otherwise chemicals will be washed into a nearby storm drain or ditch and then into your local streams. Avoid broadcasting 'weed and feed' products when spot treatment or hand pulling weeds is effective. Choose natural alternatives to pesticides; check with your local extension office for more information.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest- resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing it into a gutter or storm drain, where it will end up in the stormwater system. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn or let water run off your yard onto pavement or into the stormwater system.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into the stormwater system. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Never use the stormwater system for waste disposal. Keep pollutants out of street gutters, storm drains and ditches. Only clean water should go into the stormwater system.
- Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground or pavement; they could contaminate stormwater runoff that flows to our streams and rivers. Take them to a household hazardous waste collection event instead.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of the waste safely. Make sure that you store household hazardous waste products in a covered area. Don't allow rain to wash any household hazardous waste off of your property and into a gutter, storm drain or ditch.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as sawdust, concrete and mortar.
- Clean up paint waste properly; never pour it into a gutter, storm drain or ditch. After using latex paint, wash brushes in the sink. When cleaning up after using oil-based paint, do not clean brushes in the sink. Instead, rinse them out in a container with paint thinner, then filter and re-use it. Dispose of any paint residue or unwanted oil-based paint at a household hazardous waste collection event. Call your local waste disposal service to learn when collection events are held. You can also donate leftover, unused paint to local organizations.



Pet Care

- Pick up dog waste and dispose of it properly. Remove dog waste from your yard by using a shovel or scooper, then place the waste in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash. Pick up dog waste from your yard more frequently during the rainy season and before lawn and landscape watering in the summer.
- When walking your dog, remember to bring a plastic bag with you so you can pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. It's the law. Most City of Philomath parks have pet waste disposal stations for your convenience.

Vehicle and Equipment Use

- Though car washing by residents at their homes is allowed under our stormwater permit as a discharge exemption, the City strongly recommends that you use a commercial car wash. Doing so minimizes the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into storm drains and eventually to local streams and rivers. Used water from commercial car washes goes to a wastewater treatment plant before being discharged to the river. If you must wash your car at home, use biodegradable soap in small quantities. Once you're finished, pour the bucket of dirty water down an inside drain like a sink or toilet rather than into a gutter, storm drain or ditch.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. If spills happen, never hose them into a nearby stormwater system. Instead, clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter. Then place the material in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids through your waste disposal service or at participating service stations. Never dump any automotive chemicals into a gutter, storm drain or ditch.

Storm drains flow to streams. Keep pollution out of them.

If you see someone using a storm drain or ditch for disposal REPORT IT!

Call (541)929-3579 during business hours or (541)740-0163 after hours.



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for clean water*



Did you know? In the City of Philomath, nearly all storm drains and ditches flow directly to local streams and rivers. The flow doesn't go to a wastewater treatment facility first. Storm drains and ditches collect stormwater from rain and from landscape watering. As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and streets, it picks up dirt, chemicals and other pollutants. Anything that enters a stormwater system is discharged into the waterbodies we value for swimming, fishing, drinking water and ecological worth. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

To help reduce the problem of stormwater runoff pollution the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has developed a program under the Clean Water Act. A major part of this program is the NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) which requires some urbanized areas to obtain a permit to discharge stormwater to waterways.

The City of Philomath has a stormwater discharge permit and is implementing a stormwater program as part of meeting permit requirements. The intent of the program is to protect water quality and reduce pollutants discharged from the stormwater system into local streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. The program includes six sections: educating the public; involving the public; stopping unlawful discharges; preventing erosion from construction sites; reducing changes to runoff patterns due to development; and training City staff so they reduce stormwater impacts while doing their jobs. To learn more about the stormwater program go to www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/fact2-0.pdf or call the City of Philomath Public Works Department staff at (541)929-3579 and tell them you have questions about stormwater.

Together we can succeed at keeping stormwater pollution from entering our local waterways. Small choices that you and everyone else in our community make add up to a big difference. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, dirt and automotive fluids out of stormwater and the waterbodies it flows to. Adopt the healthy household habits for clean water shown on the back of this page. Share these habits with your neighbors.

Discharging pollution into a storm drain, or any place where it will run off into a storm drain, is against the law.

There are only minor exceptions to this City of Philomath discharge regulation. They include car washing by residents at their homes and by volunteers at community fundraising events, and residential lawn and landscape watering.

When non-compliance happens, the City starts with an educational approach and a warning. Please help us educate everyone in our community.

If you see someone causing stormwater pollution call (541)929-3579 during business hours or (541)740-0163 during evenings and weekends.

**Help
protect
our
streams!**