

# Household Stormwater Pollution Prevention



*City storm drains flow to natural water ways*



## What is Household Stormwater Pollution?

Household stormwater pollution happens when contaminants from our homes and cars go down the storm drain. This can happen through illegal dumping into storm drains, or more commonly, when rainwater washes pollutants and other debris from our yards and driveways to the storm drain and into our streams, lakes, and wetlands. Common sources of household pollution are motor oil and antifreeze left on driveways, soapy water from car washing, fertilizers and pesticides in lawns and pet waste left in yards.

## What You Can Do

You can protect our water quality by following these simple, but effective steps in this brochure.

## It's Up to You!

Your actions make a difference! You have a direct impact on the health of our natural water ways.

## Spill Response

Spills of Oil or Hazardous Materials **MUST** be reported

Who to Call

**National Response Center:**  
1-800-424-8802

AND

**Washington Emergency  
Management Division:**  
1-800-258-5990 OR 1-800-OILS-911

AND

**Ecology Southwest Region:**  
1-360-407-6300

AND

**City of Bonney Lake:**  
253-447-4320 OR  
City of Bonney Lake 311 OR  
After Hours & Weekends 253-841-5538

*City of*

**BONNEY**  
*Lake*

## Around the House

**Properly dispose of household chemicals.** Never wash or pour chemicals, cleaners, or solvents into the storm drain. It is toxic to aquatic life and it is also illegal. Take antifreeze, solvents, gas, brake fluid, and other hazardous substances to an approved location. Two approved locations include;

### **Hidden Valley Transfer Station Hazardous Waste Facility**

17925 Meridian Street East  
Puyallup, WA (253) 847-7555

### **Tacoma Hazardous Waste Facility**

3510 South Mullen  
Tacoma, WA (253) 591-5543

There is no fee to dispose of household hazardous waste at the Hidden Valley Transfer Station Hazardous Waste Facility and Tacoma Landfill Hazardous Waste Facility, but you must show proof of Pierce County residency (driver's license).

Materials accepted at Hidden Valley and Tacoma Landfill;

Antifreeze, Automotive Products, Cooking Oil, Flammable Liquids, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Glues, Household Cleaners, Motor Oil (Used), Ni-Cad Batteries, Oil Based Paints, Yard Chemicals, Pet Products

**Sweep your driveway.** Sweep up debris instead of hosing off or pressure washing your driveway. Not only is the sediment harmful, but there can also be residue from vehicles on the driveway.

## Working on Vehicles

**Wash your car on a lawn or at a licensed facility.** Car wash water contains dirt, road grime, heavy metals, oils and soaps which are toxic to fish and aquatic life. Sending soap runoff down the driveway and into a storm drain is not only harmful to the environment, it is a violation of state, local, and federal laws.

**Maintain your vehicle.** The liquids from leaky cars are harmful to aquatic life and are washed directly into the storm drain every time it rains. Test to see if your vehicle is leaking by placing clean cardboard on the ground under your engine and checking it the next day. Repair all leaks as soon as they are discovered.

**Properly dispose of oil and other auto waste at an approved waste facility.** Don't pour liquids down the drain.

**Clean up Spills.** Use kitty litter, sawdust, or commercial absorbent pads to dry up any spilled liquid, then sweep it up and place it in the garbage. Don't wash it into the street or storm drain.

## In the Lawn & Garden

**Pick up after your pets.** The rainwater can wash bacteria and parasites from pet waste into the storm drain which flows untreated into our natural waterways.

**Avoid pesticides and herbicides when possible.** Not only is it better for the health of our lakes and streams, but it is also better for the health of your family. If you must use pesticides, use them sparingly and only

where needed to ensure excess will not be washed into the storm drain. Always follow the directions on the label.

### **Use organic, time-release fertilizers.**

These fertilizers slowly release nutrients to your lawn, reducing the amount of pollutants washed into our waterways.

### **Dispose of yard waste properly.**

Compost yard debris or have it hauled away. Yard debris can release excess nutrients which promotes algae growth in the waterways.

**Use a mulching mower.** By using a mulching lawnmower you can decrease your use of fertilizers by 25 percent.

## Around the Neighborhood

**Pick up litter.** Clean up any trash to reduce the chance of litter or contaminants entering the storm water system.

**Report pollution.** It is illegal to dump chemicals or other materials in the storm drain. If you notice illegal dumping, call the Spill Hotline at (253) 447-4323 OR City of Bonney Lake 311.

**Educate neighbors.** Share the importance of adopting stormwater pollution prevention practices with your neighbors.

