



PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE  
STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION  
THROUGH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION!

**Streams, Rivers and Waterways - Starts with Local Watersheds**

The Puget Sound region is a large watershed comprised of many different watersheds. A watershed is an area that drains into a body of water through a network of streams, rivers, storm drains and underground pipes. In a watershed, many different sources contribute to stormwater runoff pollution. The pollution starts locally and runs through in-city watersheds impairing many favorite bodies of water.

**What is Stormwater?**

Stormwater is rain and snow melt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. As water runs off these surfaces it can pick up pollution such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, trash and animal waste. From here the water might flow directly into the surrounding creeks, lakes and Puget Sound.

**What are the Storm Drains for?**

Storm drains collect stormwater runoff to lessen the chance of flooding. The water is collected through storm pipes until it is released untreated into a local waterway.

**How Do I Protect Our Water?**

Since storm drains drain into local streams it is vital that we limit the amount of waste that enters the storm drain system. Do not dump any waste directly into the storm drain system, scoop poop, use fertilizers and chemicals sparingly, think fish friendly when washing cars, fix your car leaks and dispose of all chemicals, paints and fluids properly.



**PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS TO CAPTURE RAINWATER**

 Trees reduce toxins that flow into storm drains, local waterways and ultimately into the marine waters of Puget Sound. Plant trees and shrubs to reduce flooding and pollution.

**TAKE UNUSED AND OUTDATED MEDICATIONS TO A PHARMACY**

 Medication flushed down toilets or washed down sinks can end up in our rivers and streams and ultimately the marine waters of Puget Sound. Return unused medications to pharmacies participating in take-back programs.

**SCOOP PET POOP**

 Rain washes bacteria from pet waste into storm drains, local waterways and ultimately Puget Sound.

Use a bag to pick up dog poop and put it in the trash

**USE NATURAL COMPOST AS a FERTILIZER**

 Rain washes chemicals from yard fertilizers and pesticides into storm drains, streams and ultimately into Puget Sound. Try compost to keep your lawn healthy.

**CONTAIN VEHICLE OIL LEAKS**

 Rainwater washes oil that leaks from cars into storm drains, local waterways and ultimately into the marine waters of Puget Sound. Catch oil leaks with cardboard until you can get your vehicle fixed.

**USE A FISH-FRIENDLY CAR WASH KIT**

 We loan out free, easy-to-use car wash kits. These kits use a storm drain insert and a pump to send the dirty water to the sewer system or to a vegetated area to soak into the ground.

**USE A COMMERCIAL CAR WASH**

 Washing your car at home dumps oil, brake pad dust and solvents – along with soap – into storm drains, local waterways and ultimately Puget Sound. Try using a commercial car wash. If you wash your car at home wash your car on grass to help absorb the chemicals and waste before it reaches our storm drain system.

**LINE IMPERVIOUS SURFACES WITH GRAVEL TRENCHES**

 Figure out where water runs off your driveway or patio, and then dig a small trench along the edge. Fill it with gravel to slow the runoff and allow the water to seep into the soil.

LEARN OTHER WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY AT: [www.PugetSoundStartsHere.org](http://www.PugetSoundStartsHere.org)

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