

Household 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. And as Washington’s population continues to grow, the pollution problem is only getting worse.



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

YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM

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



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

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, kitty litter, or sand and dispose of 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

HOME

- Choose non-toxic, biodegradable products
- Pour carpet cleaning wastewater in the sanitary sewer (inside) – not a storm sewer (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 pugetsoundstartshere.org for more ways to help