

Clark County's CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP WATER CLEAN



There are around 110,000 dogs in Clark County, and they produce 15,000 tons of poop each year. If it's not picked up, a lot of it can wind up in streams and rivers.



Be part of the solution

Our individual actions do make a difference in building a healthy community and protecting our waterways.

We all contribute to this problem and we all need to be a part of the solution.

Here are some things you can do:

- Lawns are a major source of fertilizers and pesticides that run off into the stormwater system. Try using natural fertilizers in smaller amounts so there is little excess.
- Consider replacing part or all of your lawn with natural vegetation that requires less water, fertilizer and overall maintenance.
- Be careful not to overuse herbicides and insecticides on your yards. It's always better to spot treat than to use a blanket application across your entire lawn. Consider hand weeding and other natural techniques.
- Don't litter. Pick up trash in your neighborhood so it isn't carried into the stormwater system.
- Clean up after your dog and put the waste in the garbage, even if it's on your own lawn. Pet waste represents a lot of bacteria that can be washed into the stormwater system.
- Maintain your septic system, if you have one, or connect to an urban sewer system, if available.
- If you have large farm animals, keep them out of streams. Devise a watering system on land and cover any manure piles. The Clark Conservation District and Washington State University Clark County Extension can help.

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A healthy community needs clean water.

- Leave streamside vegetation in place to filter runoff, reduce erosion and provide shade to keep water cold for fish and other aquatic life.
- Don't dump anything into a waterway, even something as seemingly benign as yard clippings. Any type of debris can alter stream flow, with consequences for water quality and downstream flooding
- Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash, drive it onto your yard before washing, or direct wash water onto your lawn so soap, dirt and other pollutants aren't carried to storm drains in the street.
- Never dump used oil down storm drains. Take unwanted paint, used oil, antifreeze, and other household chemicals to disposal sites or collection events for household hazardous waste.
- Repair fluid leaks on your vehicles to prevent oil and other chemicals from being washed into the stormwater system.
- Sweep your sidewalks instead of hosing them off so the dirt isn't washed into storm drains.
- Disconnect your downspouts to the storm sewer system. Instead, use the water to fill a rain barrel or to irrigate your lawn or garden.
- Maintain private stormwater facilities on a regular basis to protect our waterways and to avoid expensive repair bills in the future.



Never dump anything down a storm drain.



Always apply lawn chemicals following label directions and never rinse fertilizers and other chemicals into storm drains.

