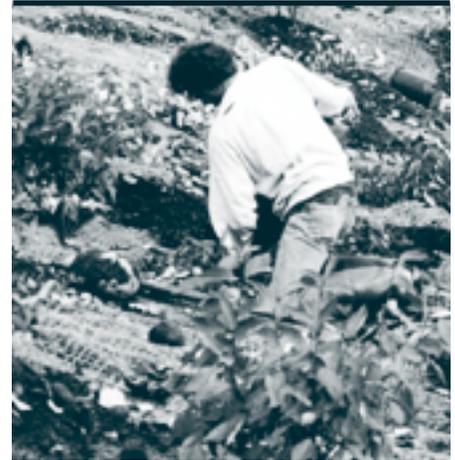


Cleaning up our WATER

▪ CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ▪



Using native plants when landscaping is a great idea. They are resilient to pests and sturdy when climates change.

Clark County is conducting a wide range of activities as part of the Clean Water Program. In addition to the county's efforts, there are many things that each of us can do in our daily lives to help keep our water clean.

Here are some household tips for helping preserve our water quality.

- Never dump anything down a storm drain. Storm drains lead to our groundwater or to the nearest stream.
- Wash your car on grass where soapy water and dirt can be absorbed. Use phosphorus-free, nontoxic soap.

“If we strive to make the earth a cleaner place to live, imagine what we will be leaving for other generations. One person can make all the difference.”

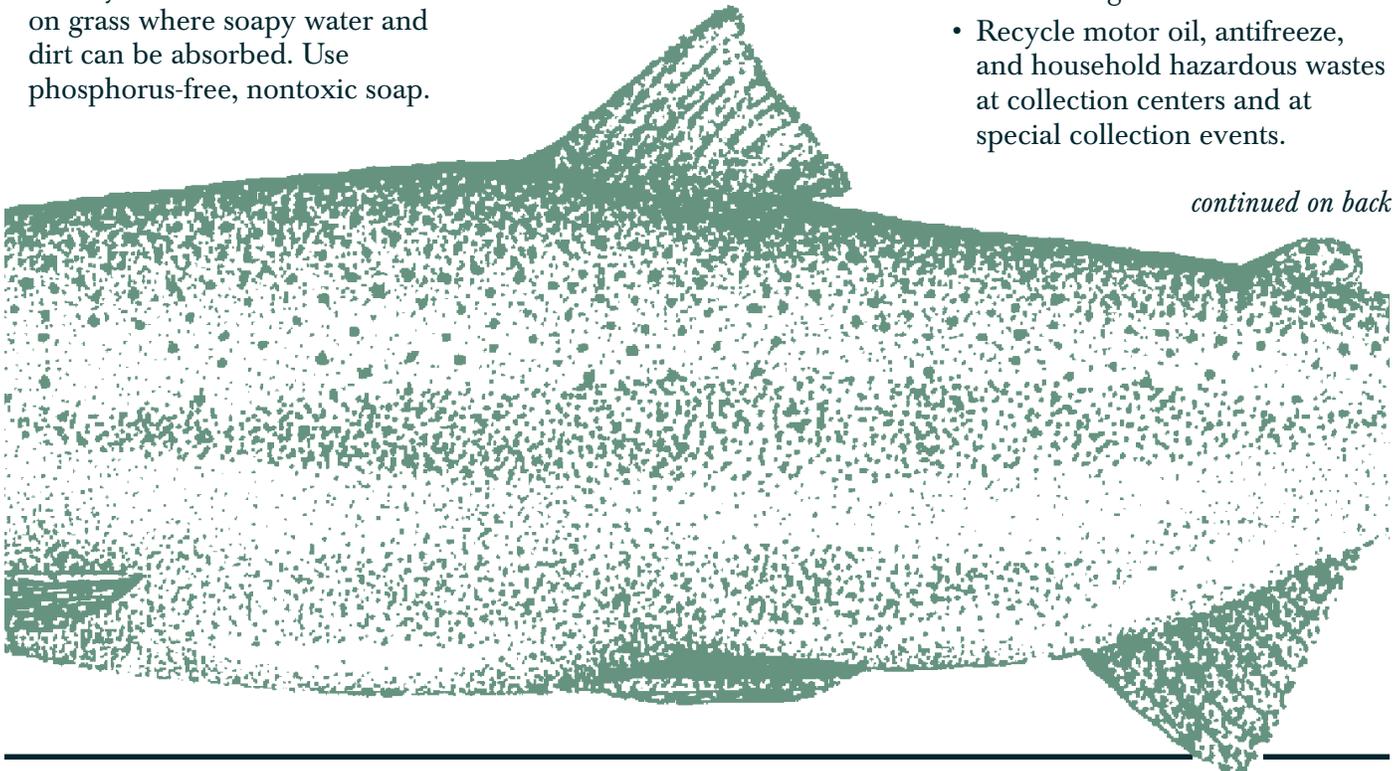
– Anonymous

- Better yet, take your car to an automatic car wash. Most car washes recycle the water and properly dispose of detergents.
- Instead of hosing down sidewalks and driveways, sweep them and put the sweep-

ings in the garbage to keep pollutants and litter out of waterways.

- If you pressure wash, take steps to keep paint flakes, grease, and other pollutants from washing into storm drains, ditches, or waterways.
- Avoid hazardous household products, but if you must use them, follow manufacturers' directions and dispose of them properly.
- Store chemicals where there is no chance for them to pollute surface or ground water.
- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, and household hazardous wastes at collection centers and at special collection events.

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- Maintain vehicles and fix leaks to keep oil and other chemicals off our roadways. Otherwise they eventually get washed into our water system, polluting it.
- Cover garbage cans and dumpsters to keep stormwater from leaching contaminants from the trash.
- Compost yard debris. Yard debris can clog storm drains and can get washed into streams and wetlands. When this happens, the excess decaying material can reduce the dissolved oxygen needed by aquatic life.
- Have your septic system inspected and the tank pumped every 3 to 5 years. Failing septic tanks can be a significant source of pollution.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers correctly and sparingly. Better yet, remove weeds by hand.
- Plant native plants. They are resistant to pests and acclimated to local growing conditions.

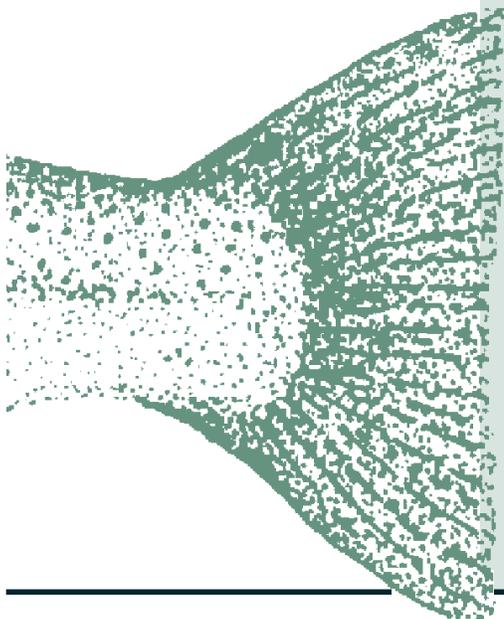
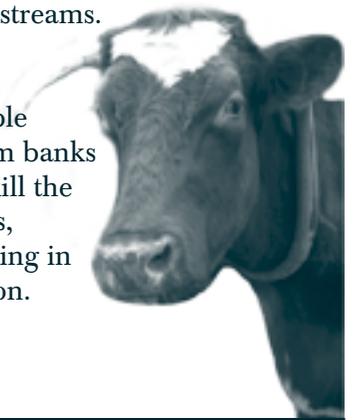


Boulders and logs in stream form pools that provide food and habitat for aquatic life.

- To minimize stormwater runoff, use natural groundcover or porous materials such as gravel or bark rather than asphalt and concrete for paths and driveways.
- Ensure roof runoff soaks into the ground. It can cause erosion if it is piped to ravines or streams.
- Leave trees and shrubs in place to minimize steep slope and bank erosion.
- Don't allow pet or animal waste to wash from your property. Fence livestock away from waterways and cover manure piles.
- When disturbing a large area of soil, control erosion by using mulch or ground cover to keep stormwater runoff from washing sediment from the site.

If you live by a stream, there is even more you can do to have a positive effect on water quality.

- Leave a plant buffer along stream banks and shorelines to avoid excess runoff and erosion. Plant native plants if the stream bank needs revegetating.
- Remove invasive plants such as blackberries and English ivy, which can force out native plants and kill trees.
- Leave logs, boulders, and branches in the stream. They form pools and riffles that provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Fence livestock away from streams. They can trample stream banks and kill the plants, resulting in erosion.



For more information

The Clark County Clean Water Commission:

Annual Report provides detailed information about activities that are funded by the clean water fee. It is available on the web site, www.co.clark.wa.us, or by calling (360) 397-6118 ext. 4345. If you have other questions or comments, or if you would like additional information about the Clean Water Program, please call the Clark County Environmental Services Division at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352. You may also send e-mail to cleanwater@co.clark.wa.us or visit our web site at www.co.clark.wa.us.

