

WASHINGTON *waters*

OURS TO PROTECT

***Stormwater runoff is the
Number 1 urban water
pollution problem in the
state.***

As runoff flows over roofs, pavement and developed land, it picks up soil particles, oil and grease (mostly from cars and trucks), and many different toxic chemicals, including those from fertilizers, weed-killers and pesticides. It also picks up bacteria from pet and livestock waste and failing septic systems.

About one-third of the state's waters are too polluted to meet state water quality standards. Frequently, the cause of this pollution is stormwater. This water is not fit for drinking or swimming.

Contaminated stormwater runoff can create hazards to human health and affect recreation, tourism, fishing, and businesses.

City of Brier
Storm Water Management



When you're washing your car in the driveway, you're not just washing your car in the driveway.

Clean water is important to all of us. It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced.

What's the problem with car washing?

There's no problem with washing your car. It's just how and where you do it. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. If you live in the city and you wash your car in the driveway, the soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into lakes, rivers or marine waters. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae look bad, smell bad and harm water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.

How will we change our ways?

The state recommends that cities and counties help educate people in urban areas about sensible ways to wash their cars and still keep soapy water from washing into the storm drains. You can, indeed, wash your car and you can also keep our waters clean!

Car washing soaps don't have to be a problem.

What will you do to help?

- Use a commercial car wash, either self-serve or machine wash.
- Wash on lawns or other surfaces where water can seep into the ground.
- Divert water away from storm drain.

Charity Car Washes

- Sell commercial car wash coupons instead.
- Borrow a pump kit to send the soapy water runoff to a sanitary sewer not the storm drain.
- Rent a "Bay for a Day" at a self-serve car wash that is hooked up to sanitary sewer.

Bonus Points!

Cleaning your car the right way also helps you:

- Support a healthy watershed.
- Help restore salmon runs.
- Sets a good example for your children and your neighbors.

We all need clean water.

We drink it, fish in it and play in it. We enjoy all it adds to our lives. In fact, we need it to survive. Fish and wildlife do, too.

More than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers and pesticides from farms and gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste and fuel spills from recreational boaters.

All these small, dispersed sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our waters too-and that adds up to a pollution solution!



**When your dog goes on the lawn,
remember it doesn't just go on the
lawn.**

Dog poop is more than just an icky nuisance. It's a health risk to dogs and people, especially children. It's full of bacteria that can make people sick. And it's a source of water pollution.

When it rains, dog poop melts away and runoff carries it to storm drains, ditches and streams that feed our rivers, lakes and marine waters.

Bacteria from dog poop can end up in shellfish. People who eat those shellfish can get very sick. The bacteria can also make water unsafe to drink or to swim in. Nutrients from dog poop can also feed the growth of aquatic plants and algae. As these decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need.

Dog poop left on the ground is no small problem. Based on a study by the American Veterinary Medical Association, it's estimated that there are 1.6 million dogs in Washington State. That means hundreds of tons of new dog poop every day!



**Dog poop doesn't have to be a problem.
What will you do to help?**

- Carry plastic bags when taking your pet for a walk or romp in the park.
- Pick up your dog's waste. Use a plastic bag, scoop or disposable gloves. Remember to wash your hands afterward.
- Seal the waste inside a plastic bag (or two) and throw it in the garbage.
- Keep dog poop out of septic systems and sewer systems. These systems are designed for human waste only.
- Pick up after your dog in your yard every few days- more often if you have small children who play there.

Bonus Points!

Properly disposing of dog poop also helps you:

- Keep pets healthy.
- Make yards and parks safer and more pleasant places to play.
- Keep your and your family's shoes clean.
- Keep out of trouble with local ordinances.
- Support a healthy watershed.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Commercial Animal Handling Areas

Description of Pollutant Sources: Animals at racetracks, kennels, fenced pens, veterinarians and businesses that provide boarding services for horses, dogs, cats, etc., can generate pollutants from the following activities: manure deposits, animal washing, grazing and other animal handling activity that could contaminate stormwater. Pollutants can include coliform bacteria, nutrients and total suspended solids.

Pollutant Control Approach: To prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, the discharge of contaminated stormwater from animal handling and keeping areas.

Applicable Operational BMPs

- Regularly sweep and clean animal keeping area to collect and properly dispose of droppings, uneaten food and other potential stormwater contaminants
- Do not hose down to storm drains or to receiving water those areas that contain potential stormwater contaminants
- Do not allow any washwaters to be discharged to storm drains or to receiving water without proper treatment
- If animals are kept in unpaved and uncovered areas, the ground must either have vegetative cover or some other type of ground cover such as mulch
- If animals are not leashed or in cages, the area where animals are kept must be surrounded by a fence or other means that prevent animals from moving away from the controlled area where BMPs are used.



When you treat the lawn, remember you're not just treating the lawn.

Many people use fertilizers, weed killers and pesticides to enhance their yards and gardens.

But if you use too much of these products or apply them at the wrong time, runoff can easily carry them from your lawn or garden into storm drains and ditches. From there they can end up in lakes, streams, Puget Sound and other marine waters.

Weed killers and pesticides are designed to kill plants and animals. However, when they get into our waters, they can kill plants and animals that are not a problem. Fish and amphibians are vulnerable to these chemicals.

Like in the garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams make plants grow. But too much algae and other aquatic plant growth can make boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. What's more, as the algae and other plants decay, they use up the oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need.

Lawn and garden care doesn't have to be a problem. What will you do to help?

Read the label. Follow instructions.

- Use fertilizer sparingly. Many plants don't need as much as you might think. Too much can even harm them. Also, roots, leaves and fruits need different nutrients. Test your soil to find the

right dose and type to match your plants' needs.

- Don't treat your lawn or garden right before a rainstorm.
- Use slow-release fertilizers and other more environmentally friendly products.
- Try non-chemical alternatives. Use compost. Plant companion plants that deter pests. Pull weeds by hand. Use mulch. Trade lawn for native groundcover or shrubs.
- Get expert advice about lawn and garden products from Master Gardeners at your county WSU Extension office.

Bonus Points!

Using fertilizers and pesticides sparingly also helps you:

- Save money.
- Make yard safer place to play.
- Support a healthy watershed.

City of Brier

2901 228th Street S.W
Brier, WA 98036

Report any illicit (Not Clean Water) dumping. Call the Brier Public Works Department, 425-775-5440