

Good practices for homeowners to keep stormwater clean

There are things we can do at home to reduce stormwater pollution in the region:

Waste Disposal and Spills

1. Never dispose of oils, pesticides, or other chemicals onto driveways, roadways or storm drains. The next rain will carry it into a surface water or help it soak into ground water.
2. [Report polluters and spills](#) so pollution can be cleaned up.
3. Stencil storm drains with "DUMP NO WASTE, DRAINS TO SOUND" message.

Drainage

1. Consider replacing impervious surfaces like sidewalks, decks, and driveways around your home with more pervious materials or methods like mulch, turf block, pervious concrete or clean stone.
2. Review your home for storm water handling. If your gutters, downspouts, driveways, or decks directly discharge into a water body, retrofit them by redirecting the runoff onto grassy areas or installing berm/swale systems.
3. Collect stormwater runoff in closed rain barrels and use if for yard and garden watering.

Car care

1. Make sure your automobile isn't leaking fluids.
2. Instead of washing your car at home, take it to a commercial car wash. The drains in commercial car washes are connected to the sanitary sewer system, so rinse water doesn't wash down storm drains. Many commercial car washes conserve water by recycling rinse water.
3. If you must wash your car at home, use a mild dishwashing liquid and try to keep the soapy water from flowing to a storm drain. Park your car on grass or vegetation that will absorb the water, and use a spray nozzle that shuts off.

Yard and garden care

1. Practice [natural lawn care](#) to reduce the use of hazardous products while saving time, water, money, and helping to preserve the environment.
2. Instead of cleaning walkways with a hose, sweep up grass clippings, leaves, twigs and put them into a yard waste container or compost pile. Sweep up dirt and put it back into the garden. This way, you won't accidentally wash debris into a storm drain or waterway, and you'll save water.
3. Choose plants and trees that resist pests and disease. Certain flowering cherry trees are resistant to brown rot. Some roses are resistant to aphids and mildew. Certain rhododendrons are resistant to root weevils and are drought tolerant. Nurseries can help you in making choices.
4. Avoid using weed and feed products. Applying this product to your entire lawn is overkill for weed control. Pull weeds by hand or with tools. If you decide to use a weed killer, wear gloves, spot spray just the weed, and spray when it isn't windy or when

rain isn't predicted. Never use pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides near streams, lakes, or wetlands.

5. Avoid using Diazinon, often used to treat crane flies in lawns. This pesticide has also been found in our streams, and the Environmental Protection Agency is phasing it out because of the potential health risk to children.
6. If you have an irrigation system, make sure it is in good working order and limit its use to actual watering needs.
7. Collect stormwater runoff in closed rain barrels and use it for yard and garden watering
8. Retain shrubby vegetation along waterfronts to prevent erosion and help stop heavy rain sheet flow.
9. Stencil storm drains - DUMP NO WASTE DRAINS TO SOUND

Pool or spa care

1. Do not drain your pool or spa to a lot, ditch or outside drain where water could enter groundwater, a stream or lake, or a storm drain.
2. Do not drain your pool or spa to a septic system, as this action could cause the system to fail.

From King County Water and Land Services website