

Importance

Stormwater pollution can have a large impact on our water quality. Recently the Environmental Protection Agency issued a requirement (called NPDES Phase II), to cities across the nation to come up with a plan *to improve the Nation's water by reducing the amount of pollutants stormwater picks up and carries to the storm sewer, and then to our local waters.*

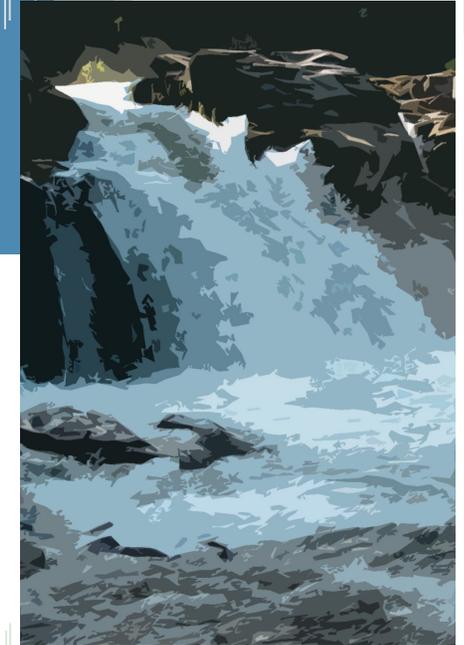
Throughout this brochure, as well as in other information provided by the City of Battle Ground, you will discover the significance of stormwater and what you can do to help protect our local streams, rivers and lakes from polluted stormwater.



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STORMWATER



City of Battle Ground
Stormwater
Management Program

Phone:
(360) 342-5070

Website:
www.cityofbg.org - Click on the
Stormwater Management Icon

Impacts

There are a variety of harmful impacts polluted stormwater runoff can have on the environment. A few of the most common ones are listed below.

- ❑ Bacteria from pet waste can wash into streams, rivers, and lakes causing danger to human and wildlife health.
- ❑ Sediment laden runoff can block light from aquatic plants, clog fish's gills, and destroy aquatic habitat.
- ❑ Household garbage and debris can plug the storm sewer and build up in local streams.
- ❑ Polluted water can contaminate drinking water and affect human health as well as raise the cost of water treatment.
- ❑ Household cleaning chemicals or spilled auto fluids can cause harm to aquatic habitats and kill fish and wildlife.



What to know

Simple ways to do your part, and make a difference

- Use lawn fertilizers as sparingly as possible.
- Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them off to prevent runoff.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain.
- Keep your yard vegetated and eliminate bare spots.
- Compost yard waste.
- Avoid pesticides (learn about Integrated Pest Management).
- Direct gutter downspouts into the yard and away from any paved surfaces. This will allow natural filtration to occur through the earth's soil.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of at your home. If you do wash it at home, try to wash it on the lawn to reduce chemical runoff.
- Routinely check your vehicle for any leaks and dispose of used oil in proper disposal bins, or at recycling facilities.
- Always pick up after your pet! A large amount of bacteria enters storm drains and then flows to our local waters due to pet waste runoff.
- If you have a septic system have your tank and drainfield cleaned and inspected regularly.



Summary

Runoff from urban areas is the largest source of water pollution in our country. We hope the information provided by the City of Battle Ground has been helpful in educating you on what you can do to help. The City is dedicated to continuing our efforts to reduce the impacts of stormwater on the environment. We appreciate all of the help from the community.

- Help the City of Battle Ground keep our environment clean and our stormwater safe. Your help can make all the difference.
- For further information on the subject, or to discover more ways to help, call the City of Battle Ground at 360-342-5070 or visit any of the following websites:

More Information

www.cityofbg.org
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Runoff-pollution/Stormwater>
<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-information-outreach/water-resources>