

WHAT IS STORMWATER ?

Stormwater comes from the precipitation that flows across the ground or pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or flows into our storm drains. These are the drains you see at street corners or low points on the sides of your streets. The water that flows into the drains is called stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is a concern because of the pollutants it may carry as it is conveyed to the nearest body of water — such as a local creek, pond, wetland, or bay. Unlike water that goes into our sanitary sewer system — from our showers and toilets, for example — stormwater, and all that it is carrying, is not treated before being discharged to our local waterways.



WHY IS STORMWATER POLLUTION A PROBLEM ?



Stormwater pollution can harm fish and other wildlife, kill native vegetation, destroy aquatic habitats, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

Furthermore, nutrients from decaying vegetation or human or pet waste which enter the stormwater may cause undesirable algae and vegetative growth in surface waters. Substances carried by stormwater that are considered to be pollutants are:

- Sediment, trash, & debris
- Oil, grease, & toxic chemicals
- Soap & paint products from outdoor maintenance activities
- Pesticides & fertilizers from lawns & gardens
- Viruses, bacteria, & nutrients from pet waste & failing septic systems

WHAT CAN BUSINESS OWNERS DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION ?

PROPERLY MAINTAIN DUMPSTERS & DUMPSTER AREAS:

- Cover dumpsters to prevent insects, animals, and rain from getting in.
- Keep the area around the dumpster clear of trash and debris and do not overfill it.
- Make sure the cleanout plug has not been removed.
- Call your trash hauler to replace a leaking dumpster.
- Store food grease properly.
- Store waste drums and barrels indoors or under cover and away from storm drains.



PICK UP LITTER & SWEEP PARKING LOTS & SIDEWALKS:

- Reduce litter from shoppers by providing and maintaining trash cans and butt collectors.
- Sweep sidewalks and parking lots regularly. Collect debris and dispose it in the trash.
- **DO NOT sweep debris into the street or storm drains.**
- **DO NOT hose down sidewalks or parking lots when sweeping will be sufficient.**



DON'T OVER-WATER LANDSCAPING SHRUBS & GRASS:

- Excess watering not only weakens the plants and wastes water; it also sends landscaping chemicals and nutrients down into our storm drains.

COLLECT OR SCREEN WASH WATER WHEN WASHING YOUR BUILDING, SIDEWALK, OR PARKING LOT:

- When you must wash your windows, sidewalk, or parking lot, **DO NOT discharge the wash water into the street or storm drains if it contains soaps, detergents, chemicals, debris, or spilled materials.**
- When washing with plain water, place a filter over the drain to catch debris. Collect and dispose of the debris in the trash.

ALSO.....

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WASH WATER & WASTE:

- **Liquid waste & sweepings:** **DO NOT dump any liquid waste, wash water, rinse water, debris, or sweepings on the ground, in the street, or into a storm drain.** Even materials that seem harmless — like latex paint, mop water, or biodegradable cleaners — can damage the environment.



- **Floor mats & equipment:** Drain the washwater into a mop or janitorial sink or interior drain which goes to the sanitary sewer system



- **Mop water:** Dispose into a janitorial or mop sink.
- **Painting & sandblasting:** Use drop-cloths for painting & sandblasting.
- **Spills:** Use kitty litter or sand to soak up spills, and then sweep up sand or litter and dispose of it in the trash.
- **Trash:** To find out what is acceptable for general trash disposal contact the City of Poulsbo Public Works Department at 360-779-4078. General information about solid waste is also available at: www.cityofpoulsbo.com/publicworks/publicworks_solidwaste.htm
- **Hazardous materials:** For the removal of hazardous chemicals or materials, contact a licensed hauler. For safe disposal options of hazardous chemicals or materials, call: Kitsap One at 360-337-5777 or go to www.kitsapgov.com/sw/recycle3.asp.

POLLUTANT DISCHARGE CAN BE COSTLY

If you are found to be discharging pollutants, or are allowing the discharge of pollutants from your property into storm drains, you may be subject to fines and penalties. Discharging pollutants directly or indirectly into state waters can be even more costly.

**ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE DRAIN**

Runoff from rain - and the pollutants that it picks up - flows into here....



...and ends up here



**PREVENTING POLLUTION IS
GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Let your customers know what you are doing to minimize stormwater pollution.



It shows them that you are a good neighbor.



Encourage them to do the same.

To report water pollution or an illicit discharge or connection, call:

Kitsap One 360-337-5777



City of Poulsbo

Public Works Department
200 NE Moe St. / PO Box 2275
Poulsbo, WA 98370
Phone: 360-779-4078

www.cityofpoulsbo.com



**Stormwater
Pollution Prevention
Practices
for Businesses**

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
Poulsbo Municipal Code 13.18
Ordinance 2009-03

