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# Tips to Prevent Clogged Storm Drains

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## Why should I clean storm drains?

Clean storm drains or catch basins help prevent localized flooding. City crews work to keep storm drains clear, but with over 2500 drains in Poulsbo, we could use your help! With your assistance, we can keep streets safe and clear and can reduce property damage caused by flooding.

## What should I do?

### CLOGGED STORM DRAINS

- Keep neighborhood storm drains free of leaves and debris.
- If you see a clogged storm drain, use a rake, shovel handle, or stick to clear the drain. If this does not help, report the blockage to the City of Poulsbo Public Works Department at 360-779-4078.
- **STAY SAFE!** Only clear a drain if you can do it safely..... and **NEVER** remove a storm drain lid or attempt to clean a drain located in a busy street.
- Do not wade into water when you are unsure of the depth.

### LEAF DISPOSAL

- Do not blow or sweep leaves into the road, ditches, or storm drains. (Street sweepers cannot pick up piles of leaves.)
- Dispose of leaves in your yard waste container, compost bin, or by taking them to a local composting facility. If you use a landscaping company, ask them to take the leaves with them.

### CHECK YOUR GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris.
- Replace leaky or broken gutters.
- Make sure downspouts are directed away from your house.

*Clogged storm drains can lead to flooding of streets and homes!*



*What is a storm drain?  
Storm drains are rectangular grates with slats and are normally near the edge of the street. These grates collect water which then flows to the nearest stream or waterway*



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The City performs regular maintenance of the stormwater system throughout the year. During the rainy season, crews are especially watchful and work hard to minimize local flooding. Citizens can help by maintaining their property in a way to minimize the effects of leaves and debris on the stormwater system.

**To report blocked storm drains or flooding issues within the city limits call City of Poulsbo Public Works at:  
360-779-4078**