

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

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A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEANER WATER

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water. Stormwater pollution is one of Portland's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to ...
CLEANER WATER!! !



EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO EVERYDAY TO PROTECT OUR WATER

As a resident, business owner or other member of the Portland community, it is important to know these easy things you can do everyday to protect our water:

- Limit your use of fertilizers & pesticides
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products
- Keep pollution out of our storm drains
- Clean up after your pet
- Don't litter

RAIN..IT'S A NATURAL RESOURCE



Rainwater is one of our most wasted resources. Most development practices send as much rain water as possible to the nearest drain. We need to keep rainwater where it falls and keep in clean to protect our rivers and streams and to reduce flooding. The way we manage our own properties can help us keep and use this precious resource.

www.rainbarrelguide.com
<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden>

*“Anyone who says
sunshine brings
happiness has never
danced in the rain”*

Unknown

Pick up After Your Pet!

Pet waste is a health hazard and a water pollutant. Protect your health and our waterways—clean up after your pet! Do not leave pet waste on driveways, sidewalks or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains and waterways. Never place pet waste in a storm drain, stream or lake. Use a bag to pick up pet waste, tie it

and place in the trash. When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers—your health may be at risk too. Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside and family pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.



The Conservation @ Home Program recognizes homeowners who create and/or protect yards that are environmentally friendly and conserve water through the use of healthy home habits like native landscaping, rain gardens, composting and reduced pesticide use. The Conservation @ Home program will give you recognition for your efforts and guidance throughout the process. Visit www.theconservationfoundation.org

Native planting can be incorporated into any landscape style and provides a “healthier” backyard environment for you to enjoy. Conservation @ Home promotes their mission of protecting open space and cleaning up rivers, providing conservation education and engaging homeowners to think globally and act locally.

WHAT IS A STORMWATER BMP?

BMP stands for Best Management Practice, which are things we do on the landscape that help keep storm water clean, increase infiltration into the ground and reduce the amount of storm water that reaches our local waterways. Though many BMP's are incorporated during the development process, there are many things that homeowners can do on their own properties. By implementing BMP's, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water. Adopt these best management practices and help protect Portland's lake, streams, rivers and wetlands. Remember to share these practices with neighbors.



Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

- ◆ Use fertilizer sparingly
- ◆ Never dump anything down storm drains
- ◆ Vegetate bare spots in your lawn
- ◆ Compost yard Waste
- ◆ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- ◆ Inspect & pump your septic tank regularly
- ◆ Use a car wash instead of washing it at home
- ◆ Have all car leaks fixed

TIPS FOR LANDSCAPING & GARDENING

Landscaping, gardening and pest control activities can be major contributors to storm water pollution. Sediment, yard wastes, over watering, pet wastes and garden chemicals mixed with storm water pollutes our streams and rivers.

Also, when it rains, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are washed off of lawns and landscaped areas and enter our waterways. These chemicals not only kill garden pests, they also harm useful insects, poison fish and contaminate ground and surface water.

Leaves, grass clippings and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the streets and gutters also cause storm water pollution. These wastes clog catch basins, causing flooding of roads and streets. Leaves and grass clippings that are washed into the river start to decompose and absorb dissolved oxygen from water. If oxygen levels in the water become too low, aquatic animals die.

- Do not over water your lawn.
- Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaked hoses or rain barrels.
- Do not blow or rake leaves into the street, gutters or storm drains.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.
- Do not over fertilizer and do not fertilize near ditches, streams or other bodies of water.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.



Town of Portland
Department of Public
Works

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The Department of Public Works is made up of seven divisions which are responsible for keeping the physical resources of municipal government functioning. It's easy to take for granted that streets are plowed in winter, sewer drainage keeps flooding to a minimum and water flows reliably from household taps—but these things do not happen by themselves!

The responsibilities of this department are those felt most directly by the citizens in town. From disposing of recyclables, to leaf pick-up, to repairing broken water mains and making sure the park facilities are clean and useable, the Public Works Department impacts our lives on a daily basis. During times of emergencies, such as storms or blizzards or any other crises, these dedicated workers put in many extra hours, often at night, weekends and holidays to keep the Town of Portland safe.

Richard Kelsey, Director of Public Works

For More Information:

Town of Portland

33 East Main Street

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Portland Recycling Center

39 Sand Hill Road

(860)342-6732

Emergency Numbers

Portland Police Department (emergency) 911

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