

stormwater impacts on receiving waters

To prevent stormwater runoff pollution in Washington, you can reduce runoff volume and prevent pollutants from entering waterways. Key actions include maintaining vehicles, using fertilizers sparingly, picking up pet waste, planting native plants, and keeping storm drains clear.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology and related local partners, here are the top ways to prevent stormwater pollution:

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1. **Never dump anything down storm drains:** Storm drains flow directly into fish-bearing streams and lakes, not into a treatment plant.
2. **Pick up pet waste:** Pet waste carries bacteria that pollute waterways and should be bagged and put in the trash.
3. **Check your car for leaks:** Fix oil and fluid leaks immediately and recycle used motor oil.
4. **Use a commercial car wash:** Commercial car washes treat their water. If washing at home, do so over a lawn or gravel to soak up the water.
5. **Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly:** Reduce or eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, especially before a rainstorm.
6. **Pick up litter:** Prevent litter from being carried to storm drains by rain.
7. **Compost yard waste:** Avoid dumping leaves and grass clippings into streets or drains.
8. **Vegetate bare spots in your yard:** Prevent soil erosion by planting, which helps filter runoff.
9. **Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces:** Divert gutters to rain gardens or lawns, rather than down the driveway.
10. **Maintain your septic system:** Inspect your system regularly to prevent failures and water contamination.

Additional tips are available at these links:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0710058.pdf>

<https://ecology.wa.gov/blog/april-2015/5-tips-for-homeowners-to-prevent-stormwater-pollut>