

Program Fact Sheet

Water Quality and You

Almost everywhere in Kitsap County, water in gutters, ditches, and storm drains, flows directly to local creeks, streams, lakes, and Puget Sound without wastewater treatment.

Kitsap County Public Works

614 Division Street (MS-26)

Port Orchard, WA 98366



Questions? Call The Open Line

Our Customer Support Number

360•337•5777

www.kitsapgov.com
openline@co.kitsap.wa.us

Eight good reasons not to pollute

1—It is a violation for any person to cause the pollution of any waters of Kitsap County (Section 10.20 of the Kitsap County Stormwater Management Ordinance, RCW 90.48.080 and WAC 173-201A).

2—Pollution caused by you and I, called non-point pollution, accounts for more than half of the pollution in Puget Sound. All of us contribute directly or indirectly to the non-point pollution problem and we all need to help in the battle against it.

3—Water in the stormwater system flows directly to lakes, ponds, streams or to the Puget Sound and is not treated by a wastewater treatment plant. In the past, combined sewer systems carried both rainwater and sanitary sewage from households and businesses in one pipe. During rainstorms, this combination often overloaded local sewers resulting in overflows designed to discharge into the nearest water body. The stormwater system is now disconnected from the sewer system to prevent these overflows.

4—Any pollutant allowed to enter streets, gutters, parking lots, storm drains, ditches or surface water can degrade water quality, which harms plants and animals that rely on the receiving water body to live.

5—Turbid (cloudy) water caused by disturbing soil and sediment can have negative environmental impacts on downstream water courses, streams and wetlands. These impacts include: reduced photosynthesis and plant growth, changes in stream bed sediments, elimination of natural food sources for trout and salmon, smothering fish eggs and physical abrasion of fish gills.

6—Lawn and garden products such as pesticides and fertilizer can be harmful to fish and aquatic organisms. If applied in excessive or improper amounts, pesticides can be toxic to fish and can contaminate drinking water. Both chemical and organic fertilizers can cause excessive plant growth in water. When these plants die, they rob the water of oxygen and this can kill fish.

7—Vehicle operation and maintenance are a source of pollutants including partially burnt fuels, leaking automobiles, improper disposal of petroleum products and vehicle cleaning or washing.

8—Phosphorus/Phosphates from soap and detergents add nutrients to water bodies promoting and accelerating algae growth which depletes oxygen levels.

Eleven good ways to keep runoff clean

1—Never discharge pollutants directly into streets, gutters, parking lots, storm drainage system, ditches, groundwater, surface water or onto the ground.

2—Do not use the storm drains for disposing motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, paints, solvents or other materials. Contact the County's **Moderate Risk Waste Facility** (360•337•5777) for information on disposal of extra or unused chemicals.

3—Never pour oil on the ground for dust control. Recycle used motor oil. Contact the Moderate Risk Waste Facility for information on the nearest collection center.

4—Fix that leaky crankcase or transmission. If repair is not possible put a drip tray under the car and recycle the collected fluids.

5—Wash your car on the lawn instead of the driveway and use low phosphate soaps. Soap in limited amounts will not harm your lawn but is extremely harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

6—Follow directions on lawn/garden care products and only apply the proper amount of pesticides and fertilizers at the proper time of the year.

7—Clean up pet waste. Runoff can carry waste into lakes and streams. Bury pet waste one-foot deep, double bag and put in the garbage or flush it down the toilet.

8—Drain hot tubs and swimming pools away from waterways and storm sewers. Chlorinated water is deadly to fish and aquatic life and should be drained onto the ground or into domestic sewers.

9—When clearing or grading use appropriate erosion control methods to limit sediment leaving your site. Stabilize areas of bare soil with vegetation as soon as possible after grading.

10—Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing debris into storm drains.

11—Compost your yard wastes. Keep grass clippings out of ravines and waterways where they will become unwanted fertilizer.

Keep this in mind...almost everywhere in Kitsap County, water in gutters, ditches and storm drains flows directly to local creeks, streams, lakes and Puget Sound without wastewater treatment. Please do your part to prevent pollution. Everyone doing a little can make a big difference.



This information is based on Washington state and local regulations. For assistance interpreting the regulations and technical information provided by this bulletin, call the Kitsap County Department of Public Works Surface and Stormwater Management Division (360•337•5777).