

## Clean Water is Important to All of Us!

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; pet waste; residential car washing; and failing septic tanks.

All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

## Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters clean.

# Protect Our Watersheds One Drop at a Time

Your actions can help keep our water clean.  
Find out how and spread the word!



[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)



For more information about protecting our water visit  
our website or contact the agency listed below.

Cover Image Courtesy of Puget Sound Action Team, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma

Contact Information

# Pet Waste

WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST  
GO ON THE LAWN.



[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)

"Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!"

# What's the problem with pet waste?



When our little friends leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. This waste then pollutes our waterways.

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children.

It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods.

Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a river, lake, or stream, the bacteria ends up degrading water quality. People who come in contact with the water can get very sick. The waste

produced by the dogs and cats in the Tri-County Region is about the same as what 50,000 people -- the population of East Lansing -- would produce.

Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment.

## How Can You Get Rid of Pet Waste *and* Help Keep Our Environment Clean?

You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips.

- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently.
- Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter.
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard but keep it away from vegetable gardens!

*Cleaning up after your pets is as easy as 1-2-3:*

1. *Bring a bag.*
2. *Clean it up.*
3. *Dispose of waste.*

## Where Do All of Those Storm Drains Lead?



Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants?

The purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries flow directly into our creeks, rivers, and eventually the Great Lakes.

***Together we can stop water pollution at the source!***