

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



When our pets leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And then pollutes our waterways. So what to do? Simple. Pick it up and dispose of it properly. Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.

## Clean water is important to all of us:

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water 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 and gardens, 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 clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds 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, and ground waters clean.

## What's the problem with Pet Waste?

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. Animal waste from agriculture, suburban and urban lands pollute our streams. It can lead to beach closings or prevent recreation uses, such as fishing or kayaking. Canine waste carries nasty bacteria, such as, *fecal streptococcus*, *E coli*, *Campylobacter*, *salmonella* and *fecal coliforms*. These diseases can cause infections, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches and headaches.

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This information is brought to you by the Water Quality Consortium, a group of public agencies working together to reduce nonpoint water pollution through education. Partially funded by a Centennial Clean Water Fund grant from Washington State Department of Ecology.

## Clean Water tip:

**How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean? Here are some options:**

Seal in plastic bags and throw out in the garbage can.

Bury small quantities in your yard so it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep and place around four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least 8 inches soils and expect some settling. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep away from vegetable gardens.

Consider purchasing a product, such as Doggie Dooley, which works like home septic systems and break down the pet waste by utilizing enzymes and bacteria.

Scoop it and flush it down the toilet. This will allow local wastewater treatment plant or your septic system to treat the pet waste.

**For more information on pet waste disposal call your local community to get the answers!**

This poster was produced through a cooperative effort between Stark Soil and Water Conservation District and your local community.

