



Stormwater Pollution Best Management Practices

Tips for Protecting Our Water Resources from Stormwater Pollution

Common household activities can contribute significantly to stormwater pollution. Proper handling and care of many of the materials that we use daily can greatly reduce pollution. Follow these best management practices to protect the water resources in your community.

Lawn and Garden Care

Lawn and garden activities can contribute significantly to stormwater pollution via soil erosion, green waste, overwatering, pesticide and fertilizer use. Excessive irrigation can be a major factor in stormwater pollution. Pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides and sediments can be carried by the runoff and end up in our surface and groundwater. Green wastes also can contribute excessive nitrogen, pesticides and fertilizers into our water resources. Prevent stormwater pollution associated with lawn and garden activities by following these guidelines.



- When possible, minimize irrigated turf area by planting native, drought tolerant plants to minimize the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides needed.
- Choose the least toxic pesticides and fertilizers available, and only apply when absolutely needed.
- When applying herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, read all labels and follow directions to avoid improper use.
- Do not apply chemicals when rain is imminent.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. For more information regarding IPM, contact the Thurston County Extension Office at 360-786-5445.
- Clean up spills and dispose of chemicals or fertilizers immediately.
- Store all lawn and garden care products in closed containers in well covered, dry areas.
- Properly adjust irrigation systems so that overwatering and runoff do not occur.

For more information regarding our water resources:

City of Tumwater Water Resources
(360) 754-4140 or visit our website
www.ci.tumwater.wa.us