

Get Ready for the Storm

Contact Information:

City of Pasco

www.pasco-wa.gov

City of Richland

www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/utilities

City of Kennewick

www.ci.kennewick.wa.us/municipal_services/water_sewer.asp

City of West Richland

www.westrichland.org

Department of Ecology

www.ecy.wa.gov

EPA

http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6



City of Pasco
P.O. Box 293
Pasco, WA 99301

A Citizen's Guide
Understanding

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is Stormwater a Problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Anything that enters a municipal storm sewer system can be discharged untreated into the waters we use for swimming, fishing and drinking.

Urban pollutants, such as bacteria, sediment, oil, grease, cigarette butts, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, paint, trash can be flushed from the roadways, parking lots, driveways and yards into the storm drains which can lead to local water bodies like the Columbia, Yakima or Snake Rivers.

The Effects of Stormwater

Stormwater pollution can have an adverse effect on plants, fish, animals and people. Some of these pollutants can include:

- **SEDIMENT** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow and damage aquatic habitats.
- **BACTERIA** from pet waste and other pathogens can wash into water bodies and create hazards for swimmers and potentially drinking water.
- **DEBRIS** such as plastic bags, six-pack plastic rings, bottles and cigarette butts can be washed into a water body and can suffocate or disable ducks, fish and birds.
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** like insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint, solvents, used motor oil, cleaning products can poison aquatic life.

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Solutions to preventing stormwater pollution are:

- **SEDIMENT AND DEBRIS** - Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots and put it in the garbage.
- **BACTERIA** - Carry a plastic bag and clean up after your pets when walking your pets. Pick up pet waste in your yard prior to watering the lawn and dispose in the garbage.
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** - Recycle household hazardous waste in your county facilities. For info on where to go contact the Franklin County Solid Waste Division at 545-3551 or the Benton County Moderate Risk Waste facility at 942-7387.

How to Report Stormwater Discharges

If you observe pollution from runoff, such as dirty water leaving a construction site, trash or chemicals in a drainage system, please call to report it. In Pasco, call the Code Enforcement Line at 543-5743, in Richland, call the Stormwater Division at 942-7480, in Kennewick, call the Stormwater Division at 585-4319 and in West Richland, call Public Works at 967-5434.

