



## Information Provided through the Douglas County Clean Water Plan

### Common Pollutants, Easy Solutions

Douglas County is making important steps to protect and improve water quality, but creating clean and healthy waterways is a community effort. There are some simple ways that citizens and businesses can help ensure clean and healthy waterways. (Shared in-part from the City of Corvallis).

| Common Household Pollutants   | Easy Solutions that Make a Difference  |
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| <b>Pet Waste</b> creates nutrient and bacteria pollution.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Car Products</b> , such as fuel oils, and lubricants, harm water quality and ecosystems.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle car oil and other products.</li> <li>• Service your vehicle regularly to prevent leaks.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Car Washing</b> can contribute soap, dirt and grime directly to streams via the storm system when you wash your car in your driveway or street.                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash cars at commercial car wash facilities; oil, gas, and grease are routed to special drains that connect to a local water treatment facility.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sediments</b> , exposed through construction or removal of plants, get washed by rain into storm drains and waterways and harm aquatic habitats.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover any exposed soils.</li> <li>• Keep sediment piles away from waterways and storm drains.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Household Hazardous Waste</b> , such as batteries, cleaners, and paints, contain heavy metals that are toxic to aquatic life and the entire food web.                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properly dispose of hazardous household products.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Compost and excess Fertilizers</b> put excess nutrients into waterways, causing algae blooms and low-oxygen conditions in the water, which kills stream plants and animals.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep compost and sediments away from waterways and storm drains.</li> <li>• Test soils before applying fertilizer and apply only as needed using slow-release fertilizers.</li> <li>• Don't fertilize when there is chance of rain or irrigation.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Pesticides and Herbicides</b> accumulate in waterways and are toxic to human and aquatic life. Natural alternatives can be very effective and safer for children, pets, and water. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about natural alternatives to chemical pesticides and herbicides.</li> <li>• Plant native vegetation, which requires less water and fewer chemicals.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Pharmaceuticals, drugs and prescription</b> meds washed down home or street drains end up in our drinking water.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of leftover or expired pharmaceuticals or prescription meds in the trash, <u>NOT</u> the sink, toilet, or storm drain.</li> <li>• Properly dispose of leftover or expired pharmaceuticals or prescriptions through local take back programs and locations.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Failing Septic Systems, Sewage Leaks and Accumulated Waste</b> causes untreated sewage and garbage to be released and transported to where it shouldn't be.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't ignore the problem. It will not go away. The longer you wait to fix the problem, the worse the situation may become, possibly making a simple repair into a very costly one.</li> <li>• Rope or fence off the area where sewage is on the ground surface to keep people and animals away from untreated sewage.</li> <li>• Report all sewage leaks immediately.</li> <li>• Remove accumulated garbage and properly dispose of it at our local landfill or transfer site.</li> </ul> |

The City of Myrtle Creek strives to educate its citizens and businesses on the importance of water quality and the necessity to mitigate the amount of pollution that enters our waterways.

The concern over stormwater runoff centers on two areas of major concern:

**1. The timing and the amount of the runoff:**

- a) "Flash floods: are caused by stormwater runoff moving at very high speeds either across the land or through the piped storm drain system after it collects from the surrounding area.
- b) Periodic, fast-flowing stormwater damages streams by causing erosion. Insects, larvae, fish, and amphibians are directly impacted by high volumes of this moving water and indirectly impacted when stream habitat features (such as pools, and riffles) are destroyed.
- c) People can also be affected when this fast flowing stormwater damages or destroys property especially homes and buildings.

**2. Pollutants contained within the runoff:**

- a) Sediment from construction sites or exposed soil and from the sides of streams.
- b) Excess pesticides/fertilizers applied on home landscaping, gardens, nurseries, agricultural field and golf courses.
- c) Trash and debris left on roads or sidewalks.
- d) Oil, auto fluids, and soapy water from car washing.
- e) Pet waste that has been left on the ground.
- f) Salt from winter weather road treatments.
- g) Failing sewer systems or sewage leaks.
- h) Household hazardous waste and hazardous waste spills.
- i) Accumulated garbage and spoilage.

\*Douglas County Clean Water Plan



Most storm drains, roadside ditches and catch basins empty directly into our local streams and rivers. These drains collect water runoff from rain, irrigation, and activities such as washing cars.

This water runoff catches and carries pollution in the form of litter, animal waste, fertilizers, lawn chemicals, soaps, and oils directly into the waterways.

Per the EPA polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water in the United States. Polluted water impacts the health of people and pets, wildlife, and the overall quality of water in our waterways.

To report hazardous waste spills please contact the Douglas County 911 Communications Center using the non-emergency number at 541-863-5221.



**CITY OF  
MYRTLE CREEK**

**STORMWATER  
POLLUTION  
PREVENTION**



(541) 863-3717

[www.cityofmyrtlecreek.com](http://www.cityofmyrtlecreek.com)