

DON'T FEED THE TOX-ICK MONSTER!



Polluted runoff from our streets, driveways and yards is the number one source of toxic chemicals entering the Puget Sound. Did you know that runoff going down storm drains DOESN'T get treated? Every year about 14 million pounds of pollutants are carried to the Sound with runoff. This is not healthy for any creature that lives there...from clams to fish to orcas. It also hurts tourism and fishing industries.

There are lots of things you can do to put the tox-ick monster on a diet...turn over for a full menu.



Find out more at Tox-Ick.org
A PROGRAM OF SUSTAINABLE WEST SEATTLE

RainWise

Rebates for rain gardens and cisterns.
www.rainwise.seattle.gov



King County

don't feed the tox-ick monster

Seven Simple Actions to Restore Puget Sound



1. SCOOP THE POOP

Our Puget Sound pets produce 200 pounds of poop every day! This can contain bacteria like E. coli and parasites like Giardia and roundworms. Keep this ick out of runoff by picking up after your pet and putting it in the trash.

Learn more at www.scoopoop.org



2. PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WASTE

Keep oil, fertilizers, pesticides, paints and other chemicals out of the storm drains. Find out where you can get rid of these safely at

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/index.asp>.

If you see an oil spill call the emergency response line at 800-OILS-911. You can report polluters to Puget Soundkeepers Alliance at 800-42-PUGET.



3. USE CAR WASH FACILITIES OR WASH YOUR CAR ON YOUR LAWN

If you wash your car in the driveway, then soap, oil and metals flow into storm drains and into the nearest waterway. Prevent this by taking your car to a car wash facility that treats or recycles its water.

www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Education/ThingsYouCanDo/UseLessWater/CarWashes



4. WALK, BIKE AND TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT

Hydrocarbons and emissions from vehicles on the road add up. Heavy metals like copper and zinc come off brake pads and tires. How often can you substitute a car trip with a walk, bike or public transportation trip?

Learn more about biking at www.cascade.org or www.bikeworks.org



5. PLANT AND PROTECT NATIVE EVERGREENS

Native forests act like giant stormwater holding tanks! A mature evergreen absorbs 250 gallons of rainwater a day. Evergreens work all winter long when deciduous trees have lost their leaves. To find out about joining forest restoration efforts, contact the Green Seattle Partnership, www.greenseattle.org.

Protect native evergreens from invasive species like English Ivy, holly and blackberry.

Find out more at www.kingcounty.gov/weeds



6. PRACTICE NATURAL YARD CARE

Using compost and mulch instead of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides keeps toxics out of runoff AND builds a spongy healthy soil that grows lush lawns and gardens. Also be sure to put the right plant in the right place (sun-loving plants won't do well in the shade no matter what you do). Learn more at www.naturalyardcare.info



7. KEEP WATER ON SITE WITH RAIN GARDENS OR CISTERNS

Letting rain soak in to the ground or take a detour into a cistern (a giant rain barrel) is a great solution for stopping the runoff from heavy rains. Some neighborhoods in Seattle – where big rains may cause sewer overflows because the sewer pipes and storm pipes are connected – can get rebates for rain gardens and cisterns. Check your eligibility at www.rainwise.seattle.gov. Lots more information is available at www.12000raingardens.org

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