

# WHEN IT RAINS, IT DRAINS. AND IT HAS TO GO SOMEWHERE

Water from inside our homes goes to a wastewater facility for purification. But water from roofs, streets, and outdoor spigots goes untreated directly into storm drains, straight to our waterways, picking up all kinds of contaminants along the way!



**DID YOU KNOW**

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to the third greatest cause of lake deterioration in the US.

**DID YOU KNOW**

Leaf "litter" and landscape trash accounts for 56% of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains, causing potential flooding and increasing debris in our waterways.

**DID YOU KNOW**

The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings from mowing your lawn just once can produce up to 100 lbs. of unwanted algae if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.

**DID YOU KNOW**

Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes.

**DID YOU KNOW**

When you wash a car in the driveway, you're washing about **120 gallons** of grime-filled water downstream. Together with the dirt, grease, and grime, the soap flows untreated into nearby storm drains, which runs directly into streams, rivers, and lakes.

**DID YOU KNOW**

If dog owners don't clean up after their pets, thousands of pounds of poop can wash into our waterways every year! Dog waste contains 10% phosphates and 2% nitrates, contributing to algae growth.

## WHY IT MATTERS



Too many nutrients in streams and lakes cause the rapid growth of algae.

Algae look bad, smells terrible, degrades water quality, and can be harmful to your health.

As algae decay, it uses up oxygen in the water, leading to a decline in our drinking water quality and makes it more expensive to treat.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Dispose Properly



- Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
- Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets

### Fertilize Efficiently



- Always follow the manufacturer's application recommendations.
- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems – leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants.

### Be Car Smart



- Use a commercial car wash, where water is recycled and sent to treatment facilities
- Wash your car on the lawn or gravel
- Dump your soapy bucket in the sink

### Scoop It. Bag It. Trash It.



- Clean up dog waste and dispose properly

**City of Sweet Home Public Works**  
 1400 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, Sweet Home OR 97386  
 (541) 367-6359 | [sweethomeor.gov/publicworks](http://sweethomeor.gov/publicworks)

