

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS: PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION



*The surface water from UW campuses drains directly into local waterways.
Pollution and harmful chemicals in groundwater can harm fish and wildlife.*
IF YOU SEE A SPILL ON CAMPUS, CALL 206.543.0467. AFTER HOURS, CALL 9-1-1.

STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater is rain or melted snow that picks up oil, landscaping chemicals and garbage, which it carries to the nearest stormwater drain.

Stormwater drains empty into Lake Washington and other bodies of water. **Stormwater is *not* treated before it goes into local waterways.**

Pollution and chemicals in stormwater harms nearby lakes and streams by reducing water quality and impacting wildlife, such as birds and fish.

In addition to damaging salmon habitat, [stormwater pollution](#) can:

- Contaminate swimming areas
- Pollute shellfish beds
- Contaminate groundwater and wells
- Contribute to toxic chemicals our food

Given our proximity to salmon migration areas and nature wetlands, we are relying on UW students, faculty and staff to keep pollutants out of stormwater drains and report spills.

STORMWATER DRAINS

You can find stormwater drains along roads and in parking lots around the UW campuses. On the Seattle campus, there are over 100 stormwater drains.

Look for a metal grate with this label:

“DUMP NO WASTE – DRAINS TO LAKE.”



Stormwater drains connect to underground sewer pipes that carry water and anything picked up along way directly to the nearest body of water:

- Lake Washington and Portage bay in Seattle
- Sammamish River and wetlands in Bothell
- Commencement Bay in Tacoma

**BEFORE POURING
ANYTHING INTO A
SEWER DRAIN**

CALL 206.543.0467

WE CAN HELP YOU DISPOSE OF
CHEMICALS AND SUBSTANCES THAT
COULD HARM THE ENVIRONMENT.

YOU CAN PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Protect our waterways by doing the following:

1. **Do not pour into (or near) a stormwater drain: Soaps, cleaners, chemicals, grease, oil or paint.**
Dispose of these items by calling 206.616.5835 or [request a chemical waste collection](#).
2. Do not litter:
 - a. Clean up your **dog's feces**.
 - b. Put **cigarette butts** in a designated receptacle.
 - c. Put **food waste** in compost bins.
3. Ensure that your car does not **leak oil** and consider alternatives to driving.
4. **Report spills** when you see them.

GET HELP

The UW Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S) is available to help UW students, faculty and staff **dispose of potentially harmful chemicals** and substances that could pollute our waterways.

Contact EH&S if you will be doing any of the following activities on a UW campus:

- Painting or staining
- Pressure washing
- Changing oil in a vehicle or heavy equipment
- Washing a vehicle or heavy equipment
- Snow removal, de-icing or anti-icing
- Applying fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides
- Moving or digging large amounts of dirt
- Removing vegetation
- Cleaning up after an outdoor event where food and beverages were served
- Throwing or spreading confetti, glitter or powdered pigments

REPORT SPILLS

A spill is a release of a substance that may cause harm to the natural environment. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm.

If you see a spill on a UW campus, call 206.543.0467 (after hours call 9-1-1).

- Anyone can **anonymously report** a potential environmental issue at www.ehs.washington.edu/report-concern.
- You can take a photo and send it to epenviro@uw.edu.

EH&S will respond to and investigate reports in accordance with applicable regulations and policies. There is no penalty for reporting a spill.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AT THE UW

EH&S maintains a [Stormwater Management Plan](#) for the Seattle campus, UW Bothell and UW Tacoma.

Read and give your feedback on the plans for protecting stormwater on campus.

1/3 OF THE POLLUTION

IN WASHINGTON STATE'S WATER
IS FROM STORMWATER RUNOFF.

Source: King County Stormwater Services and Information

Contact the EH&S Spill Advice Line at 206.543.0467 or email epenviro@uw.edu for more information.