Did you know . . .

Storm drain systems are an essential network of pipes, channels, and ditches that collect rainwater to prevent flooding of streets, yards, and buildings. Storm drains in Anacortes discharge the unfiltered water directly into Fidalgo Bay, Guemes Channel, and Burrows Bay.

Stormwater does not get treated at the City wastewater treatment plant prior to discharge.

The Port of Anacortes has an Illicit Discharge Stormwater Policy prohibiting the release of non-stormwater discharges to the Port of Anacortes stormwater system. An illicit discharge is anything that enters a storm drainage system that is not made up entirely of clean stormwater. Illicit discharges are illegal and punishable by a fine from the Department of Ecology. If you observe any illicit discharges on Port property, please contact the Port's Environmental Specialist – Sarah Tchang 360-299-1827.

Remember:
Only Rain
Down the Drain!

The Port of Anacortes appreciates your cooperation in protecting water quality and the environment in our beautiful city. For more information on stormwater issues and water quality in Puget Sound, visit these helpful websites:

Puget Sound Partnership
http://www.psp.wa.gov/

Washington Stormwater Center
http://www.wastormwatercenter.org/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program

Washington Department of Ecology
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water/stormwater/index.html

Port of Anacortes

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Be Part of the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

100 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
P: 360-293-3134
F: 360-293-9608

How Can You Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution?

The most effective way to reduce stormwater pollution is to implement best management practices (BMPs). The most important and efficient BMP is to control pollution at the source.

What is stormwater?

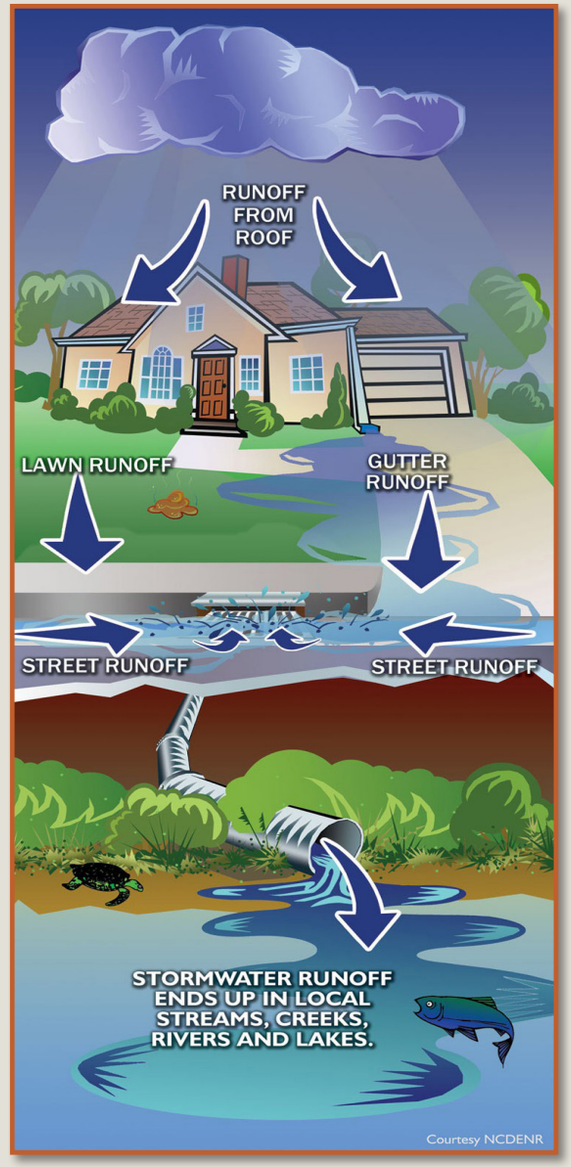
Stormwater is water from a storm event such as rain and snow that does not soak into the ground and flows down impervious surfaces like rooftops, driveways, and streets. Stormwater then flows downhill to drainages, rivers, and other bodies of water and finally ends up in Puget Sound.

What's the problem with stormwater?

Stormwater flow carries all types of pollutants that degrade our water quality. Such pollutants include: soil, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, fecal coliform, and metals.

Why should we care about stormwater pollution prevention?

Stormwater runoff is the largest contributor of pollution to the Puget Sound. Runoff pollutants affect our ability to eat seafood from our local waters by diminishing aquatic habitats, causing disease to wildlife, and straining the commercial fishing industry. We want flora and fauna to be free from preventable diseases, and we want our local economy to thrive. Additionally, more pollution means more money and time towards stormwater management and treatment. Last but not least, we care because we want to protect the natural beauty of our home.



Good Housekeeping BMPs

- Keep work areas neat and orderly. Pick up trash and sweep regularly.
- Keep tools, equipment, and vehicles in good working condition.
- Regularly inspect equipment and vehicles for leaks; use drip pans to catch leaks during maintenance activities.
- Store all materials out of rainfall areas, preferably under a roof. Keep tight fitting lids on all containers, and label the contents.

Spill Response BMPs

- Prevent spills and other material from entering storm drains and discharge points.
- Clean up spills immediately. Use a dry cleanup method like sweeping or spreading an absorbent. Do not wash down with a hose!
- Dispose of cleanup materials properly, and ensure hazardous wastes go into a proper container.

Waste Management BMPs

- NEVER use storm drains or ditches for waste disposal. Report illegal dumping.
- Keep dumpster lids closed at all times to keep rain out. Replace leaky or corroded dumpsters.
- Use secondary containment measures for material and waste storage areas.