

# Clean Water

At A Glance

HOME  
Construction

## Construction (Home Improvement Projects)

Construction activities, even smaller projects completed by homeowners, can have a significant negative impact on water quality if not managed properly.

Activities can pollute stormwater runoff with sediment and chemical pollutants.

Follow the tips on this fact sheet to avoid polluting our local streams and rivers. **Remember, it is a violation of City Code to dump anything into the stormwater system- only rain down the drain!**

### What's the problem?

A number of home improvement projects involve loosening large amounts of soil and sediment. Sediment is the most common pollutant washed off of work sites into the stormwater system (street gutters, storm drains, and open channels). Once in our streams and river, the sediment causes a number of problems: clogging the gills of fish, blocking out sunlight, and raising water temperature. Sediment also carries pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, and automotive fluids.

### Construction Activity Tips

- Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains. It is against City Code to stockpile dirt or materials in the City Right-of-Way.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather. State law requires a "call before you dig" notification. This will prevent you from digging into an electrical or gas line, 1-800-332-2344.
- Cover excavated material and stockpiles of soil, sand or gravel, protected from rain, wind and runoff.
- Sweep or scoop up dirt, cement washout or concrete dust instead of hosing into driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grass, which can shield and bind soil.
- Cleaners, solvents and other toxic home improvement products are too dangerous to dump in the garbage. Recycle them at a household hazardous waste collection facility. Call Lane County Waste Management at 682-4120 for more information. When not in use, ensure all chemicals, paints, and fuels are securely closed and stored under cover. Be sure to clean up all spills immediately.

### Do you need a permit?

A Land and Drainage Alteration Permit (LDAP) is required for construction sites where 5,000 square feet or 50 cubic yards of soil are disturbed. To apply for an LDAP, or for more information, contact the City of Springfield Public Works Department at 726-5849.

You might need a building permit for a fence, shed, or deck. Call the Building Division for more information, 726-3753 or look on the web at <http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/dsd/Building/Forms.htm>

### The River Begins at Your Front Door

Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline  
telephone: (541) 726-3694

