

# Clean Water

At A Glance

Pet  
Waste



## Pet Waste

Every time it rains, the bacteria from pet waste left on the ground washes into storm drains and then to local rivers and streams without being treated. Pet waste can increase bacteria in our waterways, harming aquatic life and water quality.

When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers - your health may be at risk too. Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside, and family pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

### Pet Waste Disposal Do's

Pick up pet waste. Bag it and toss it in the trash.

Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste in a trash can.

Clean up pet waste from your yard at least once per week.

Pet waste can be flushed down the toilet - but only pet waste. Dispose of kitty litter and plastic bags in the trash.



### Managing Large Animal Waste

These wastes are best composted or spread back on fields and pastures. To compost, mix with materials such as straw or bedding and protect from the rain. Periodically turning the piles speeds the decomposition into nutrient-rich compost. Store composting waste away from waterways and riparian areas

### Report Water Pollution

Help keep our local rivers healthy and report water pollution. Call the water pollution reporting hotline at 541.726.3694 or email [dpw@springfield-or.gov](mailto:dpw@springfield-or.gov)

For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to [springfieldstreams.org](http://springfieldstreams.org)  
or email our team at [WaterResources@springfield-or.gov](mailto:WaterResources@springfield-or.gov)

