



BEST PRACTICES



Summer Activities—How You Do Them Matters!

Clean Your Boat Before You Float

Small aquatic plants and animals can “hitchhike” from one water body to another on boats, motors, trailers, clothing, boots, and other equipment causing environmental havoc—like the zebra mussel or milfoil infestations in many water bodies.

Did you know? It is illegal to transport aquatic plants and animals on boats or trailers on Washington State roads.

Tip! Always clean your boat and trailer before leaving a launch site. Wash clothing, and other equipment at home, in a utility sink, if possible.

More Info: www.protectyourwaters.net or wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasives/prevention

Know Before You Dig

Several naturally occurring algae can produce toxins in shellfish that can be harmful to humans when consumed. Because there is no way to distinguish between toxic and nontoxic shellfish, check to see if a beach is approved and open for recreational shellfish harvesting before going to the beach.

Tip! To help protect our shellfish beds, use fertilizers sparingly on your yard, pick up pet poop daily and maintain septic systems regularly.

More Info: www.facebook.com/WAShellfishsafety or www.doh.wa.gov/shellfishsafety.htm

Check Before You Swim

Remember, swimming beaches receive stormwater runoff from everything uphill - including yards, roads, roofs, and parking lots. Before you swim, check to see if the water is safe, especially if it has rained a day or two before.

Did you know? Most beach closures are due to high bacteria levels.

Tip! You can help reduce bacteria levels by always picking up pet poop and fixing leaking septic systems.

Wash Your Car at a Commercial Carwash

...or on the lawn! Car washing on the road or driveway is a favorite pastime, but sends soap, automotive fluids and metal dust and grime to local creeks and Puget Sound through the stormdrains.

Did you know? Water from commercial car washes is often cleaned and recycled on-site and any waste is sent to the LOTT wastewater treatment plant.

Tip! The most environmentally friendly way to wash your car is at a commercial car wash, but the lawn is the next best option.

Properly Drain Your Pool or Hot Tub

Chlorine and other chemicals from your pool or hot tub can be toxic to aquatic plants and animals if improperly drained. Make sure that you are properly draining your pool or hot tub.

Scoop It, Bag It, Trash It!

Pet waste not picked up and disposed of washes into storm drains which carry polluted runoff to our recreational beaches jeopardizing our health and harming or killing fish and wildlife. Pet waste should be scooped, bagged and thrown in the trash; every dog, every doo, every time.

Did you know? Stream Team supplies free pet waste bag holders to residents to attach to your leash? Send an email to streamteam@ci.lacey.wa.us to find out how you can get yours!