

BEST PRACTICES



What Can Kids Do? 10 Tips to Protect Our Water

When it comes to protecting our precious water resources, you're never too young to help! Here are some easy, practical tips to get kids started:

- 1. Remember: only rain goes down the storm drain.** Those grates in the street flow directly to our waterways. Never pour or let anything run off into a storm drain that didn't come from the clouds.
- 2. Pick up after your pet.** Bag and place all pet waste in the garbage. Pet waste contains fecal coliform bacteria and other toxic stuff. Yuck!
- 3. Holding a fund-raising car wash?** Contact your local stormwater educator to set up a Clean Cars Clean Streams car wash or, better yet, sell car wash tickets available at www.charitycarwash.org
- 4. If you notice oily spots where your family parks the car,** let your parents know, so they can have any car leaks fixed. Cardboard or a drip pan can be placed under the car until it can be fixed (let your parents do this part!).
- 5. Encourage your household to use less-toxic home cleaning products.** A list of easy home cleaning tips to help keep our water (and you!) healthy, can be found at <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/saferproducts.html>
- 6. Encourage your household to use less-toxic yard care products.** Tips for keeping a healthy yard and healthy water can be found at Common Sense Gardening: <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/index.html>
- 7. Save water inside.** Shut off the water when brushing your teeth, take shorter showers, and never use the toilet as a waste basket.
- 8. Save water outside.** Shut off the hose when not in use. Don't water streets, sidewalks and driveways; they don't grow!
- 9. Mark storm drains.** Contact your local stormwater educator to borrow a storm drain marking kit for your neighborhood.
- 10. Spread the word!** Tell others about what you've learned.



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