

BEST PRACTICES



Protecting Coho Can Start with Your Car

As coho salmon make their way up local streams, the waters they call home can become deadly. Over the past ten years, researchers have been trying to figure out why so many coho are dying in local streams before they have a chance to spawn. New technology and data shows that tire particles washed off roadways and into local bodies of water, are proving to be deadly for coho salmon.

What's happening?

As we drive, our tires wear down, leaving small amounts of tire dust along roads and bridges. When rain hits these hard surfaces, it picks up particles and carries them into nearby waterways, creating a toxic tire soup for our local salmon.



Good news!

Many people are trying to tackle this issue to help save our salmon and protect Puget Sound. There are efforts underway to work with tire manufacturers to change the ways tires are made, reducing their amount of toxic compounds. In addition, local cities, counties, and agencies are working to build more infrastructure that captures and cleans stormwater runoff before it enters streams and lakes.

How can you help?

- Carpool to work or whenever possible
- Telecommute or telework if your employer allows it
- Walk or bike to work, school, or the store
- Buy local goods and services that don't have to travel so far
- Use public transportation to get around
- Plan shopping trips ahead of time, reducing the number of times you go to the store.

Source: Stream Team News, Spring 2021