

*“The future of our water supply will look nothing like the past. We are all connected through our stormwater ... we all live downstream.”*

—Anonymous



“ Stormwater runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events often contain pollutants that could adversely affect water quality” .

—Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

**Call (541) 766-6085**  
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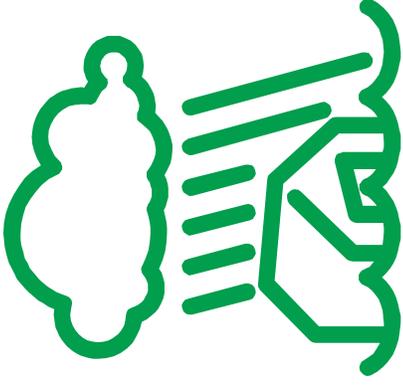
[www.co.benton.or.us/cd/environment/storm](http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/environment/stormwater)

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**Are you prepared for...**



**Stormwater?**



**For more information:**

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**What is Stormwater?**

**Why is it Regulated?**

**What can you do to help?**

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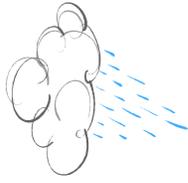
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Every Day

## What is Stormwater?



Stormwater is any precipitation that collects in a natural or constructed storage or transport system following a storm event. For example, during construction of a new building or neighborhood, sites are often cleared and the soil is firmly compacted, which prevents rainfall or snowfall from soaking into the soil. As a result, the rainfall streams along the surface of the ground—this is stormwater runoff.

After construction activities, impervious areas such as roads, roof tops, parking areas, and sidewalks prevent infiltration of moisture from rain and snowfall, thus causing stormwater runoff.

This runoff can be too much for the existing natural drainage systems to handle. Pollutants are often flowing in stormwater!

Benton County is working to

Implement a Stormwater Management Plan...everyone has a part in improving stormwater quality.

***It's about improving water quality...***

***And you can help.***

## Why is it Regulated?

### **Why is Benton County Stormwater a big deal?**

Stormwater regulations are part of the Federal Clean Water Act. The State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has placed responsibility on counties and cities for stormwater management.



Stormwater from one area often becomes drinking water for another area. Fish and wildlife along with people are affected by poor quality, or increased flows from stormwater.

### **Benton County will be completing many Stormwater Rules through 2012—Want to be Involved?**

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## What Can You Do To Help...

### **The Benton County Stormwater Phase II Permit Requires:**

- Public Education,
- Public Participation,
- Pollution Detection and Enforcement,
- Construction Runoff Control, and
- Good Housekeeping



### **What you can do to**

- help:** take the following steps to protect stormwater quality after development is complete.
- ◆ Clean up vehicle spills. Pick up pet waste and put these items in the trash.
  - ◆ Limit the amount of impervious surface on your property.
  - ◆ Use porous paving surfaces such as wood decking, open-celled bricks, and concrete pavers that allow water to soak into the ground.
  - ◆ Where possible, direct runoff from impervious surfaces to vegetated areas.
  - ◆ Allow thick vegetation or “buffer strips” to slow runoff and soak up pollutants.
  - ◆ Plant drought tolerant or native species where appropriate.
  - ◆ Aerate your lawn and use less fertilizer