

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

How you can help protect our drinking water and streams

Did you know that leaving dog waste or cat waste on the ground can cause pollution and health problems? As rainwater washes off roads, sidewalks, gardens, and lawns, it picks up harmful things such as pet waste, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment. The rain carries these pollutants into ditches and storm drains. Most of this polluted water then flows directly into our streams, not into a water treatment plant.



- Pet waste carries diseases that can sicken people. It is important to keep pet waste away from wells, ditches, storm drains, and streams.



- Pet waste hurts animals that live in streams. Pet waste that gets washed into streams uses up oxygen when it decays. The lack of oxygen harms the animals and hurts stream health.

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

How you can help protect our drinking water and streams

Did you know that leaving dog waste or cat waste on the ground can cause pollution and health problems? As rainwater washes off roads, sidewalks, gardens, and lawns, it picks up harmful things such as pet waste, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment. The rain carries these pollutants into ditches and storm drains. Most of this polluted water then flows directly into our streams, not into a water treatment plant.



- Pet waste carries diseases that can sicken people. It is important to keep pet waste away from wells, ditches, storm drains, and streams.



- Pet waste hurts animals that live in streams. Pet waste that gets washed into streams uses up oxygen when it decays. The lack of oxygen harms the animals and hurts stream health.

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

How you can help protect our drinking water and streams

Did you know that leaving dog waste or cat waste on the ground can cause pollution and health problems? As rainwater washes off roads, sidewalks, gardens, and lawns, it picks up harmful things such as pet waste, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment. The rain carries these pollutants into ditches and storm drains. Most of this polluted water then flows directly into our streams, not into a water treatment plant.



- Pet waste carries diseases that can sicken people. It is important to keep pet waste away from wells, ditches, storm drains, and streams.



- Pet waste hurts animals that live in streams. Pet waste that gets washed into streams uses up oxygen when it decays. The lack of oxygen harms the animals and hurts stream health.

Simple things you can do to protect drinking water and keep streams clean

Cleaning up after your pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag on your walk. What should you do with the waste you pick up? No solution is perfect, but here are choices:

Put it in the trash. Pet waste can cause health problems for garbage handlers and problems at the landfill. Securely wrap the waste before putting it in the trash. Don't put it in the yard debris container.

Keep it away from water. If you leave pet waste in your yard, prevent water pollution by cleaning up areas within 50 feet of wells, ditches, streams, and storm drains.

Bury it in the yard. Dig a hole away from vegetable gardens, play areas, and at least 50 feet from streams, ditches, and wells. Microorganisms in the soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to the soil. (Don't add pet waste to your compost pile. The compost won't get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.)

Flush it down the toilet. The water from your toilet goes to your septic tank or to the wastewater treatment plant. Make sure your septic system can handle the increased load. Don't flush clay cat litter, rocks, or sticks. Cat feces may be scooped out and flushed, but used *clay* litter should be put in the garbage.



Thank you for doing your part to keep our water clean and safe!

Simple things you can do to protect drinking water and keep streams clean

Cleaning up after your pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag on your walk. What should you do with the waste you pick up? No solution is perfect, but here are choices:

Put it in the trash. Pet waste can cause health problems for garbage handlers and problems at the landfill. Securely wrap the waste before putting it in the trash. Don't put it in the yard debris container.

Keep it away from water. If you leave pet waste in your yard, prevent water pollution by cleaning up areas within 50 feet of wells, ditches, streams, and storm drains.

Bury it in the yard. Dig a hole away from vegetable gardens, play areas, and at least 50 feet from streams, ditches, and wells. Microorganisms in the soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to the soil. (Don't add pet waste to your compost pile. The compost won't get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.)

Flush it down the toilet. The water from your toilet goes to your septic tank or to the wastewater treatment plant. Make sure your septic system can handle the increased load. Don't flush clay cat litter, rocks, or sticks. Cat feces may be scooped out and flushed, but used *clay* litter should be put in the garbage.



Thank you for doing your part to keep our water clean and safe!

Simple things you can do to protect drinking water and keep streams clean

Cleaning up after your pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag on your walk. What should you do with the waste you pick up? No solution is perfect, but here are choices:

Put it in the trash. Pet waste can cause health problems for garbage handlers and problems at the landfill. Securely wrap the waste before putting it in the trash. Don't put it in the yard debris container.

Keep it away from water. If you leave pet waste in your yard, prevent water pollution by cleaning up areas within 50 feet of wells, ditches, streams, and storm drains.

Bury it in the yard. Dig a hole away from vegetable gardens, play areas, and at least 50 feet from streams, ditches, and wells. Microorganisms in the soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to the soil. (Don't add pet waste to your compost pile. The compost won't get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.)

Flush it down the toilet. The water from your toilet goes to your septic tank or to the wastewater treatment plant. Make sure your septic system can handle the increased load. Don't flush clay cat litter, rocks, or sticks. Cat feces may be scooped out and flushed, but used *clay* litter should be put in the garbage.



Thank you for doing your part to keep our water clean and safe!