Stormwater Runoff
What you need to know & what you can do.

It all starts with rain.
(earth runs off, travels - a lot)

In the Puget Sound, each year brings about

140 rainy days
Every year, a single paved acre in Seattle produces approximately

1 million gallons of runoff

That then heads down the drain.
(slow flowing over impermeable pavements)

City to Sound
Underground Highway

...And into our Sound
(where it then enters the marine ecosystem and surrounding communities)

Our Puget Sound critters are severely affected by this toxic mix of stormwater contaminants, including:
- Chemicals such as detergents, cleaning products, fertilizers, and more
- Toxic elements like lead and mercury
- Largely untreated, stormwater quickly enters our waters and destroys marine life

Which matters because ...

Postcard view: how to be a clean water lover below

Well that’s depressing ... What can we do?
Quite a bit actually. From individual actions to state level policy, there’s a lot of work to be done.

Reduce Your Individual Impact
Start small by stopping pollution at its source in your home. Get it under control in your yard with care. Keep rain gardens, ponds, or small water bodies filled with rain gardens or other water gardens to absorb and filter water. Control sources of stormwater flow such as cracks and leaks in driveways or gutters. Replace lawn or bare areas with rain gardens that absorb water and reduce runoff.

Speak up for Clean Water!
Individual actions are important, but just as important is having our leaders accountable for needed policy changes. Whether it’s supporting stormwater funding or advocating for policies that protect our waters, there are many ways to get involved. You can call your state lawmakers, write letters to the editor, or join with others to form local advocacy groups to protect our waters.

Patrol Your Local Waters and Report Pollution Concerns
Take charge of your neighborhood streams, launch lakes, and other waterways. Join a local organization like Puget Soundkeeper’s WaterWatch, Seattle’s water quality monitoring program, to test water quality and keep our waters clean. You can also call the Clean Water Line at 1-800-945-3373 to report pollution.

This infographic brought to you by Puget Soundkeepers.
For more information, see pugetsoundkeepers.org