

When your pet goes on the lawn,  
remember it doesn't just go on the lawn.



When our pets leave those little surprises, rain washes all that waste and bacteria into our stormdrains and pollutes our drinking water sources by contaminating creeks, rivers and ultimately our Great Lakes. So what should you do? Simple. Dispose of pet waste properly. Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.

Clean water makes Great Lakes!

[www.cleanlakes.ca](http://www.cleanlakes.ca)



## Clean water is important to all of us

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been reduced. Now, a major percentage of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil and other engine fluids, excessive use of fertilizers, waste chemicals like paints and solvents, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too. And that adds up to a pollution solution!

## Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides drinking water, fish habitat, recreation, commercial opportunities, and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water. And all of us play a role in getting and keeping our creeks, rivers, lakes and groundwater clean.

## What's the problem with pet waste?

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighbourhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the stormdrain and ends up in a creek, river, or lake, the bacteria end up in fish and wildlife. People who eat those fish can get very sick. Bacteria also pollute beaches which results in beach closures.

## Pet waste disposal tips:

How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?

- Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage. (This is legal in most areas, but check local laws.)
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

To find out more about the impacts of pet waste and what you can do to prevent water pollution, contact your local municipality or conservation authority.

## Partners for clean water:



Images courtesy of the Puget Sound Action Team, Washington State Department of Ecology in partnership with King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma, Washington

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