

Focus Sheet

Urban Waters Initiative

June 2009

Business Inspections in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Area

Ecology's Water Quality and Hazardous Waste Programs, King County's Wastewater Treatment Division, and Seattle Public Utilities are inspecting businesses in the Lower Duwamish Waterway drainage basin.

Urban Waters Initiative

The Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) was one of three areas chosen by the 2007 Legislature for Washington State's new Urban Waters Initiative. This initiative provided resources for the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and local government efforts to control sources of pollution to the Lower Duwamish Waterway Site. This site is a joint Ecology/EPA cleanup site and consists of approximately 5.5 miles of the waterway south of Harbor Island, including areas of contaminated sediment (mud under the water) and upland properties. As part of this initiative, Ecology and local agencies assigned inspectors to work with businesses in areas that affect the LDW.



The initiative's goal is to help prepare for cleanup of the contaminated areas by preventing recontamination. This is done using the following steps:

- Identify potential sources of contamination to the Duwamish water and sediment.
- Inspect more permitted facilities to ensure compliance with existing permits.

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- Ensure that all businesses that need environmental permits do have them.
- Help businesses reduce toxics and prevent pollution.
- Help Ecology decide if more source control measures are needed.
- Strengthen the partnership between Ecology, the city of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and King County.

Why are you inspecting my business?

An Ecology or local inspector is inspecting your business as part of a coordinated interagency effort with increased person to person communication as a tool to reduce pollution to the waterway. The inspectors help local businesses that handle chemicals and other materials that might be carried to the waterway to create an effective system for eliminating or managing the pollution.



Who is doing the inspections?

Inspectors are from Ecology’s Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Programs, Seattle Public Utilities and King County’s Wastewater Treatment Division’s Industrial Waste Program. These coordinated inspections are to evaluate commercial and industrial facilities to find ways to reduce the risk that pollutants will reach the waterway. Inspections may be done by a single agency or jointly. The agencies developed a master inspection checklist and common database to manage and share the information found during the inspections.

For information on applicable regulations see:

- www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html
- <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water.html>
- http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Drainage_&_Sewer/Stormwater_Related_Inspections/Pollution_Control_Inspections/index.asp
- <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/SourceControl/Duwamish.aspx>

More resources:

What’s OK to dump in interior drains:
King County Industrial Waste Program:
206-263-3000 or TTY Relay: 711
E-mail: info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste>

Identify/dispose of hazardous waste:
King County Business Waste Line
206-263-8899
E-mail: businesswasteline@kingcounty.gov
www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/phoneline.html

Stormwater pollution control:
Seattle Public Utilities
206-615-1636
http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Drainage_&_Sewer/index.asp

Get spill kits and help with spill plans:
Resource Venture, a service of Seattle Public Utilities and the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS), provides free pollution spill kits and plans to Seattle businesses. 206-343-8505
<http://www.resourceventure.org/green-your-business/stormwater-pollution-prevention/spill-kits>

Ecology’s Industrial Stormwater Permit:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html>

Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Toxics Cleanup Program at 425-649-7000. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

What are the inspectors looking for?

The inspections focus on sources of chemicals that could enter the waterway through stormwater runoff or combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The inspectors are targeting:

- Industrial processes which generate wastewater.
- Wastewater pretreatment.
- Waste disposal.
- High risk pollution generating activities.
- Spill prevention.
- Stormwater related structures.
- Outdoor maintenance practices.
- Washwater practices.
- Outdoor storage of products and waste.
- Fueling operations.

Inspectors may collect samples from on-site catch basins. This is done to identify sources of pollution that may not be obvious. This helps inspectors work with the businesses to address sources of pollution.

Are there new regulations involved with this program?

There are no new regulations involved in this program. The Urban Waters Initiative is designed to provide more effective person to person communication with business owners and managers about ways to combat pollution. This program works under the same regulations and permitting practices that businesses have experienced in the past. See page two for more resources.

What is source control?

Source control is the process of identifying and eliminating sources of pollution or reducing the likelihood that they will reach the waterway. Ecology has organized an interagency Source Control Work Group to coordinate this work in the Lower Duwamish drainage basin.

To help control pollution, follow these top Best Management Practices (BMPs):

<i>Do's</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Don'ts</i>
Store chemicals and other materials under cover with secondary containment.		Don't store chemicals and materials in the wrong way; this can lead to stormwater pollution.
Keep outdoor areas well maintained.		Don't allow debris, dirt, leaks, and spills in outdoor areas. Don't allow debris to build up in drains or sewers.
Make sure wastewater treatment systems including grease traps, oil-water separators, and catch basins are regularly maintained.		Don't ignore maintenance. When these devices don't work properly, grease can build up in the sewer lines and contaminants can collect in the lines.
Dispose of wastes properly. The King County Industrial Waste Program is glad to answer questions about what's OK to dump into interior drains (see page two).		Don't dump concentrated liquid chemicals into drains. Check first with King County to find out what's legal to dump into drains.

