



**Urban**

**Waters Initiative**

**ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS**



# WHAT IS THE URBAN WATERS INITIATIVE?

The Urban Waters Initiative focuses on water quality issues in rivers, bays, and other bodies of water near high-population, urban areas. Concentrated human activity and related pollution pose unique challenges to keeping these waters healthy.

The initiative supports ongoing efforts to find and control sources of pollution before they enter urban waters. Ecology's goal is to work with local businesses to prevent contamination or recontamination of waterways.



## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MY SMALL BUSINESS?

Urban Waters Initiative staff may visit your business to help you identify and address possible sources of pollution. These visits are NOT compliance inspections. We encourage you to ask questions and talk about areas you'd like to improve!

Our goal is to provide technical assistance, help solve pollution-related problems, and support businesses whose practices contribute to a healthy environment.

**Visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/urbanwaters](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/urbanwaters) for more information and resources.**

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# HOW CAN I PROTECT URBAN WATER QUALITY?

## MANAGE AND STORE WASTE PROPERLY

- Store dangerous waste properly. Use Thurston County's "Dangerous Waste Storage" handout to learn the basic principles of proper storage.
- Label all containers and list any associated risks.
- Manage light bulbs, used oil, and spent antifreeze appropriately. Refer to Ecology's Shop Guide to learn how to handle these common waste streams.
- Read and understand the Safety Data Sheets for your products.
- Manage inventory to reduce expired or off-spec products.

## DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- NEVER put waste down storm drains. Remember: ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!
- Know which wastes designate as "dangerous" and how to dispose of them properly. Learn more: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/Designation/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/Designation/index.html)
- Clean up spills immediately. Use an absorbent and dispose of materials properly.
- Throw empty aerosol cans away or recycle them for scrap. Partially full cans must go to an appropriate disposal facility.
- Recycle whenever possible. Call your local solid waste department or visit <http://1800recycle.wa.gov> to learn which items you can recycle.

## PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

- Prevent pollutants like oils from transmission or engine parts from coming in contact with rainwater. Store these items inside or keep them covered.
  - Inspect and clean out stormwater catch basins on a regular basis.
  - Install catch basin inserts for sediment control.
  - Install and use spill controls.
  - Maintain equipment regularly to prevent accidental leaks and spills.
  - Have a spill kit on hand, and create a Spill Plan.
  - Keep dumpsters closed—inspect them regularly to ensure they are in good condition. Work with your waste management company to replace leaky or rusted dumpsters.
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# WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

## CHOOSE SAFER PRODUCTS

Products with the Safer Choice label help consumers and commercial buyers identify and select products with safer chemical ingredients. Every ingredient in Safer Choice products is evaluated to check for harmful effects to human health and the environment.

Companies that manufacture Safer Choice products have invested heavily in research and reformulation to ensure the ingredients and finished product are the safest possible without sacrificing quality or performance.

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice). Look for the new label beginning summer of 2015.



## RECYCLE LIGHTS CONTAINING MERCURY

By Washington law, you **MUST** recycle compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs and tubes and all other lights containing mercury—a potent neurotoxin.



Residents and businesses who purchased lights from Washington retailers can recycle them at authorized collection sites. There is a limit of 10 lights per person per day.

Visit [www.lightrecycle.org](http://www.lightrecycle.org) to learn more or find the nearest Light Recycle location.