



# WATERWORKS

THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER IS A DIRECT REFLECTION ON HOW WE TREAT OUR ENVIRONMENT. THIS PAMPHLET ILLUSTRATES SOME COMMON BEHAVIORS THAT, UNINTENTIONAL AS THEY MAY BE, CAUSE DAMAGE TO OUR WATERWAYS BY BRINGING THESE PROBLEMS TO THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AND PROVIDING REALISTIC SOLUTIONS, KOMO TV 4'S EARTH AGENDA CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES THE BEAUTY, ADDRESSES THE CHALLENGES AND PRESENTS THE CHOICES THAT WE FACE HERE IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST.



**STEVE POOL**

Weathercaster  
KOMO NEWS 4

## Lawn & Garden Fertilizers

Yes, its true fertilizers help make a lawn look beautiful by helping it achieve a deep green luster. But have you ever stopped to think what happens to the fertilizer when it rains, or when you over-water? The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb and into our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. The fertilizer then causes algae and other aquatic weeds to grow which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive and interferes with recreational activities like fishing, swimming and boating.



Rather than use fertilizers, consider using a mulching mower and let the clippings serve as a natural fertilizer. However, if you use store-bought fertilizers, follow directions and use sparingly.

## Does Your Car Leak Oil?

Before you drive off in the morning, back up a few feet and take a look at the spot where your car was parked overnight. Do you see any sign of an oil leak? If so, those leaks are contributing to water pollution. Leaking oil goes from car to street and is washed from street to storm drain and into our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Imagine the number of cars in the area and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water.



Have oil leaks repaired. Also consider alternative transportation methods. By using the bus system or carpooling you can save wear and tear on your vehicle while contributing to a healthier environment.

## Still Changing Your Oil at Home

Thousands of Puget Sound residents change their oil and other car fluids every 3,500 miles or so. And once a year, they might change the oil in their power lawn mowers.



Dispose of oil/other fluids properly. Check with your service station or auto repair shop. They often collect used motor oil from consumers and recycle it free as a community service.

**CALL YOUR COUNTY HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT HAZARDOUS  
WASTE LINE FOR A LIST OF  
LOCATIONS WHICH WILL TAKE  
THE OIL FOR YOU.**

**KING COUNTY CALL: (206)296-4692  
PIERCE COUNTY CALL: (1-800-287-6429  
SNOHOMISH CO. CALL: (206)388-3425**

**OTHERS CAN CALL THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
ECOLOGY RECYCLE LINE AT:  
1-800-RECYCLE**



PROTECT WATER QUALITY  
FIX OIL LEAKS.

A COOPERATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY,  
KING COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF BELLEVUE,  
SEATTLE AND TACOMA.





## Washing Cars in the Driveway

Washing your car in the driveway or in the street contributes to water pollution. How? All the soap, scum and oily grit run along the curb, into storm drains and then to our waterways. That pollution is bad for fish and makes them sick.

### EARTH AGENDA SOLUTION

If you wash your car at home, wash it on grass or gravel instead of the street or your driveway. Be sure to turn off the water after the car is wet; don't let it run while soaping down your vehicle. Purchase a trigger-type nozzle which automatically shuts off the flow when you release it. Or, better yet, take your vehicle to a car wash where the water is treated and recycled.

## Pet Waste

Here's a pollutant you probably haven't thought about-pet-waste. Your pet leaves his/her calling card on the lawn. Guess what happens when it rains? Bacteria from the pet waste ends up in the storm drains where it pollutes our waterways and can make people sick.

### EARTH AGENDA SOLUTION

Dispose of pet waste properly. The best solution is to flush it down the toilet. Another option is to put it in a plastic bag in your garbage.



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variety of Earth Agenda topics.



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