



Yakima Regional Stormwater Working Group (RSWG)

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) *What are we talking about?*

Even though the topic of Best Management Practices, or BMPs, for stormwater may seem hard to grasp, it's really not. The widely accepted definition for the term BMPs is any steps that can be taken either before, during or after an activity that will prevent or reduce the amount of pollutants entering stormwater runoff and eventually our rivers, lakes or groundwater. BMPs are often lumped into groups such as structural, source control, runoff treatment or flow control to describe how they work and where they are applied but the final objective is the same whether you use one or a combination of many; they are all steps we can take to keep our stormwater as clean and unpolluted as possible. Here is a list of things we can do every day to help keep our stormwater clean:

- 1) Always sweep up grass clippings after mowing and do not let them accumulate in the street or gutter. Grass clippings and dirt that mix with stormwater promote algae growth and degrade our stormwater quality.
- 2) Apply fertilizers and weed killers sparingly to your yard; always follow the manufacturers' directions. Over use of yard chemicals can cause harm to the groundwater by being washed away by rain or irrigation water.
- 3) If you have to wash your car at home, do it on the grass where the soap and water can be filtered by the soil. An even better choice is to take your car to a commercial car wash where the wash water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant.
- 4) Never washout or pour anything into your gutter or storm drain in the street. This includes left over paint, swimming pool water or even fireworks remnants. Runoff in the storm drainage system is not treated and pollutants such as these can cause serious damage to the receiving waters or groundwater. Remember, only rain down the storm drain.
- 5) Always pick up your pet's waste when out for a walk or in your own yard. When mixed with irrigation water or rain, pet waste introduces harmful pathogens into the stormwater that can kill fish or make humans sick.

To find out more information about the use of stormwater BMPs or how you can help, visit the website at <http://www.yakimacounty.us/1732/Stormwater-Management> or scan the QR code below.

"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry."
~ Thomas Fuller



Upcoming Events

June 13th
RSWG Meeting
(City of Selah, WA)

June 15th—17th
Union Gap Old Town Days
2018
(Union Gap, WA)

Yakima County
128 N 2nd St.
Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: (509) 574-2300
Fax: (509) 574-2301
Web: www.yakimacounty.us

Don't forget Father's Day (June 17th)