

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 pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And then pollutes our waterways. So what to do? Simple. Dispose of it properly (preferably in the toilet). Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.

If you have questions regarding storm water, please contact your municipality or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Regional Office. For general questions, you may also contact DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (717) 772-5661 or visit www.dep.state.pa.us. Thanks to the Washington State Water Quality Consortium for permission to adapt and use this poster.

PET WASTE

Scoop the Poop. Bag it, trash it.

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 greatly reduced. Now, most water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, 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?

Dog poop is more than just an icky nuisance. It's a health risk to dogs and people, especially children. It's full of bacteria that can make people sick. And it's a source of water pollution. When it rains, dog poop melts away and runoff carries it to storm drains, ditches and streams that feed our rivers, lakes and the Chesapeake Bay.

Bacteria from dog poop can end up in fish and shellfish. People who eat those species can get very sick. The bacteria can also make water unsafe to drink or to swim in. Nutrients from dog poop can also feed the growth of aquatic plants and algae. As these decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need.

Dog poop doesn't have to be a problem.

What will you do to help?

- Carry plastic bags when taking your pet for a walk or a romp in the park.
- Pick up your dog's waste. Use a plastic bag, scoop or disposable gloves. Remember to wash your hands afterward.
- Seal the waste inside a plastic bag (or two) and throw it in the garbage.
- Keep dog poop out of septic systems and sewer systems. These systems are designed for human waste only.
- Pick up after your dog in your yard every few days— more often if you have small children who play there.

Bonus points!

Properly disposing of dog poop also helps you:

- Keep pets healthy.
- Make yards and parks safer and more pleasant places to play.
- Keep your and your family's shoes clean.
- Keep out of trouble with local ordinances.
- Support a healthy watershed.



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