

Working for Clean Rivers

An average of 37 inches of rain falls in the City of Portland annually. Soil and plants absorb rain in a natural environment. But when streets and buildings cover the ground, rain can wash over hard surfaces and carry dirt, oil and other pollutants to rivers and streams. This stormwater runoff can also cause erosion and flooding if it's not properly managed.

Managing stormwater at its source where rain falls reduces the damage stormwater runoff can cause. Portland promotes sustainable stormwater management techniques that mimic natural systems. Green streets, ecoroofs and rain gardens slow and filter stormwater and allow water to soak into the ground to replenish groundwater supplies.

Portland offers incentives to property owners to manage stormwater at its source.

Clean River Rewards

Manage stormwater on your property and get a discount on your stormwater bill.

www.CleanRiverRewards.com

503-823-1371

Treebates

Plant a tree on your residential property and receive up to a \$50 credit on your city water/sewer bill.

www.portlandonline.com/bestrees

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RAIN

floodplains watersheds clean rivers

Information to help you
deal with Portland's
37 inches of average
annual rainfall



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND

working for clean rivers

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Dean Marriott, Director

Living in a Floodplain

Fall and winter storms can cause flooding in Portland. If you live or work in a floodplain, keep these rainy season tips in mind.

Be Safe

- Don't try to walk or drive through flowing flood waters.
- Electricity travels through water. Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your electric utility:
PGE – 1-800-542-8818
Pacific Power - 1-888-221-7070

Protect Your Property

- Make a record of your personal property. Use photos or videos, or ask your insurance company for inventory forms.
- If you know a flood is coming, shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs.

Stay Informed

Portland radio stations KXL 750 AM, KEX 1190 AM, KPOJ 620 AM and KINK FM 102; and television stations KOIN 6, KATU 2, KGW 8 and KPTV 12 are among those that broadcast weather and flood information.

Get river level information at www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc.

Get Portland weather conditions at www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr or call the National Weather Service office in Portland at 503-261-9246.

Check Your Insurance

Basic homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. But because Portland participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (FloodSmart.gov), Portland residents can pur-

chase federally-backed flood insurance. The average cost of flood insurance in Portland is about \$600 a year.

Portland residents receive a 25% flood insurance discount because of the city's favorable rating in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). CRS awards points to local jurisdictions for reducing flood risk through actions like public education, stormwater management, public ownership of land in the floodplain, and obtaining detailed information about structures within the 100-year floodplain.

Over the course of a 30-year mortgage, there's a 26% chance that flooding will damage a property in the 100-year flood plain. If you have a federally-backed mortgage and are in the 100-year floodplain, you're probably required to carry flood insurance.

To find out if your property is in a floodplain, call 503-823-6892, or go to the city's Development Services Center at 1900 SW 4th Avenue. Floodplain maps are also available at PortlandMaps.com. Enter your address, click on "Maps" then choose "Hazard" to find maps for your property.

Construction in Floodplains

New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. You need a permit to build on, alter, regrade or fill on your property. The permit ensures that the work doesn't cause problems on other properties, and that it meets government requirements. Call 503-823-6892 before you build, or if you see building or filling without a city permit sign posted.