What is stormwater runoff?

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND

Nick Fish, Commissioner
Michael Jordan, Director

Portland receives an average of 37 inches of rain a year.

IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, soil and plants absorb rain. However, when streets, buildings, and parking lots cover the ground, rain can wash over the hard surfaces to create stormwater runoff. When runoff is not managed properly, it can:

- Carry dirt, oil and other pollutants to rivers and streams.
- Cause erosion and flooding.
- Harm property and wildlife habitat.
- Reduce capacity of sewer pipes to carry sanitary sewage, causing backups into streets and basements.

What is Portland doing?

In addition to pipes, Portland uses green infrastructure like green street planters, rain gardens, trees, and restored floodplains and wetlands to collect runoff, keep it out of the sewer system, and filter it before allowing it to slowly soak into the ground. Green infrastructure also beautifies neighborhoods, helps cool the air, and provides habitat for birds, bees, and other wildlife.
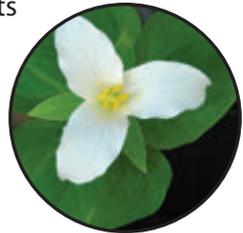
What can you do?

- Manage stormwater on your property. By doing so, you could earn a discount on your bill. Learn more at *www.cleanriverrewards.com*.

- Landscape with native plants to reduce water, fertilizer and pesticide use. Go to *emswcd.org/in-your-yard/naturescaping* to learn about free classes.

- Plant yard trees to help capture rain, reduce stormwater runoff, and control erosion. To learn how to care for trees or join neighborhood tree plantings, go to *www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/trees*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Find clean river tips and more at *www.portlandoregon.gov/BES*.

- Call Metro at 503-234-3000 or go to *oregonmetro.gov* for composting, recycling and other green living tips.

Only rain should go down the drain.

WHEN YOU SEE POLLUTION, REPORT IT.

Call 503-823-7180 to report pollution that may threaten rivers, streams or groundwater.

Environmental Services Spill Protection and Citizen Response staff is available 24 hours a day to investigate spills, slicks and suspicious discharges. Staff monitor messages, respond immediately to emergency spills, and investigate reports of pollution and problems in the sewage collection system.

NO DUMPING
Report Pollution 24/7
503-823-7180
STORMWATER ONLY

Help protect water quality and the city's sewer and stormwater system by keeping everything—but the rain— out of storm drains.

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working for clean rivers