

WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN, REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST GO ON THE LAWN.



When our pets leave those little surprises, the bacteria from the waste gets washed into our storm drains and pollutes our waterways. So, what can you do? Simple, dispose of the waste properly. This assures it gets treated as it should.



A cooperative effort of the Alabama Clean Water Partnerships.

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, more than 60 percent of 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. Each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Clean water is important to our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. We all benefit from clean water and each of us play an important role in keeping our surface and ground waters clean.

What is the problem with pet waste?

Pet waste is a health risk to animals and people, especially children. It is a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it is washed into our storm drains and ends up in a lake, stream or marine water, the bacteria shows up in shell fish. People who eat these contaminated fish can get very sick. In a Seattle, Washington study, the waste produced by Seattle's dogs and cats is almost equivalent to the amount that a city the size of Gadsden or Decatur would produce. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water and is untreated.

Place Your Logo Information Here



Office of Education and Outreach
(334) 394-4360

Municipal Storm Water Program
(334) 271-4367



Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma.

Clean Water tip:

How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?

Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. That's best because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.

Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage. (This is illegal in most areas, but check local laws.)

Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

For more information on fertilizing alternatives and composting, call your County Extension's Master Gardeners program or a number listed here.

