

**WHEN YOU LEAVE
MANURE OUT IN THE WEATHER,
REMEMBER
YOU'RE NOT JUST LEAVING IT
OUT IN THE WEATHER**



Water and manure are a bad combination. When rain, snowmelt or sprinkler water reaches manure, the runoff can make waters unsafe to drink and swim in, and promote algae blooms. Keep manure out of the weather and the water.

**Manage manure.
Collect, cover and compost.**

A message from the Washington Departments of Ecology, Health, Washington Parks & Recreation Commission, Washington Conservation Commission, Puget Sound Partnership, WSU Extension, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Thurston County Stream Team.



When you leave manure out in the weather, remember you're not just leaving it out in the weather.

If you keep livestock, even just one or two, you have a special role to play in keeping our state's waters clean.

Livestock manure can be great fertilizer, but when it's exposed to rain, snow melt or irrigation water, it also can be a source of water pollution. Water running off manure carries nutrients and bacteria that cause problems when they enter Washington's waters.

Bacteria from manure can make water unsafe to drink or to swim in. Nutrients from manure can promote excessive algae and aquatic plant growth. As the plants decay, they deplete the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need.

Just as manure can pile up quickly, runoff from even small piles of manure can add up to big problems. Many livestock owners may not be aware that manure in their yards and pastures is polluting waters miles away.

Manure doesn't have to be a problem.

What will you do to help?



- ◆ Use downspouts to direct runoff from buildings away from manure.
- ◆ Pile manure and keep it under cover in a convenient site that's sheltered from heavy winds.
- ◆ Pick up manure from farm yards and paddocks at least every 3 days.
- ◆ When using a tarp for a cover, use a durable, heavy-weight one large enough to fully cover the pile. Secure it well.

- ◆ Work with the local conservation district office to make a plan and learn how to best handle your manure. You may be eligible for cost sharing to put your plan into action.

- ◆ Build a compost system or have an off-site compost facility collect the manure.

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We all need clean water.

We drink it, fish in it, play in it. We enjoy all it adds to our lives. In fact, we need it to survive. Fish and wildlife do, too.

More than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers and pesticides from farms and gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste, and fuel spills from recreational boaters.

All these small, dispersed sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our waters too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Bonus points!

Good manure management also helps you:

- ◆ Prevent parasite re-infestation.
- ◆ Keep groundwater clean.
- ◆ Build goodwill with your neighbors.
- ◆ Support a healthy watershed.
- ◆ Reduce mud.

WASHINGTON
waters

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