

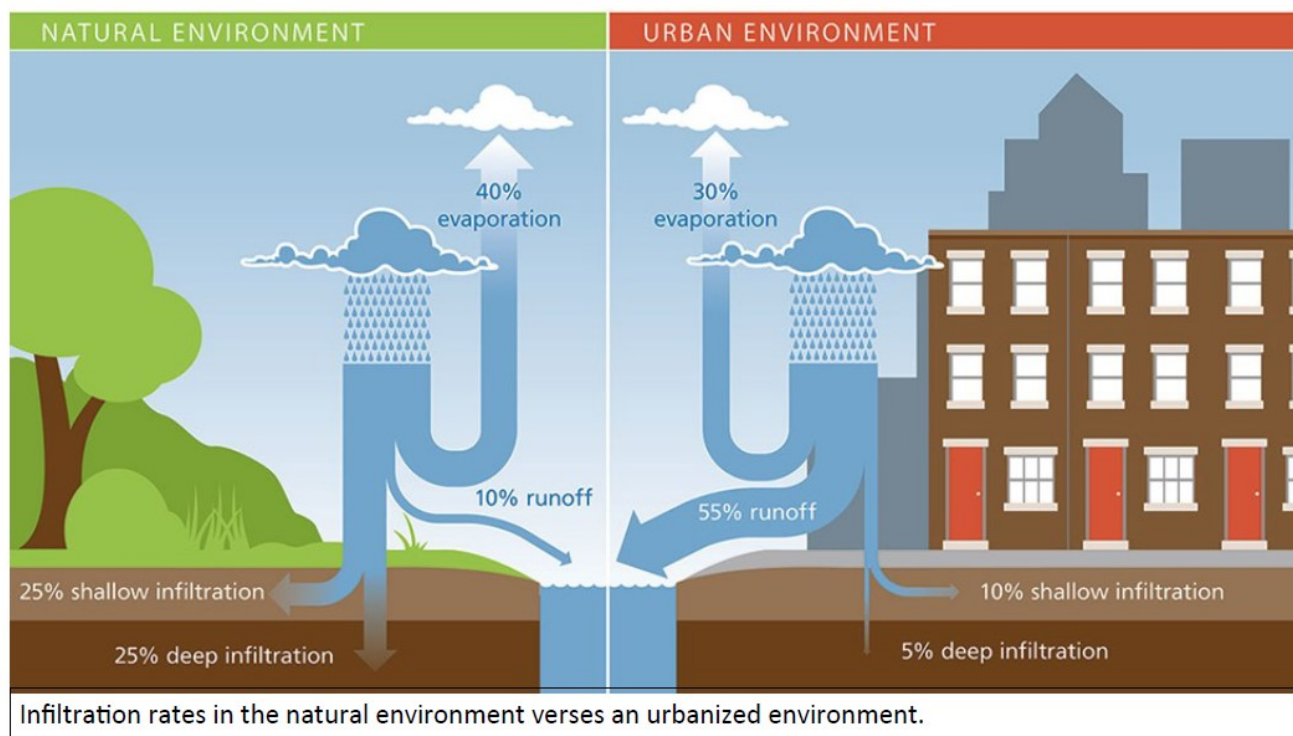
Environmental Insight



Why does “Impervious” Matter?



Every year, the Puget Sound region receives up to 40 inches of rain. Over a hundred years ago, all that rain would infiltrate through soil and plants, fill waterbodies to be evaporated back into the atmosphere, or runoff directly into waterbodies and stay there as liquid water. However, since cities and towns have developed, more and more green spaces were removed and replaced with hard, impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and building roofs. Less and less stormwater has been able to infiltrate our soil (which also means less aquifer recharge for groundwater). Instead, more and more stormwater flows over our roads and buildings and discharges directly into our local waterbodies. The Puget Sound region is currently approximately 4% impervious. At 10% impervious, a watershed region will typically see irreversible losses of functioning aquatic systems.



For perspective, if a home has 2,000 square feet of impervious surfaces, that is equal to 1,246 gallons of stormwater runoff that needs to be managed during a typical rainstorm.

This discharge carries pollutants that can be toxic to aquatic life, the environment, and human health. Stormwater picks up anything on the ground, animal waste, chemicals, oil, and sediments, and carries it to local waterways and potentially in our sources of drinking water. Polluted waterways can lead to restrictions in recreation including fishing, shell fishing, boating and swimming.



Typical path of rainwater over a residential home.

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Quarterly

NSE Environmental Staff

Environmental Office: (425) 304-3470

Program	Phone
Spills	(425) 304-3465
Natural Resources	(425) 304-3464
Stormwater, Wastewater, & UST/AST	(425) 304-3277
Air & Drinking Water	(425) 304-3466
Recycling	(425) 304-3071
Hazardous Waste	(425) 304-5987

Street Sweeping



The street sweeper at Naval Station Everett is now operating! The street sweeper is a cost-effective solution to reduce storm water pollution by removing pollutants before reaching the storm water conveyance systems, thereby reducing sediment and pollutant loading to receiving waters. Common sources of heavy metals are vehicle wear particles, brake pad breakdown, and other materials. Heavy metals are often attached to particles which are deposited on impervious surfaces, making them readily available for mobilization during storm events.

NAVSTA Everett conducts quarterly storm water monitoring to assess the presence of metals such as copper, zinc, lead, and



aluminum. Additionally, total suspended solids (TSS), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and pH are monitored and reported to the EPA per the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). It is imperative that BMPs are implemented and maintained to protect storm water quality exiting naval facilities.

MS4 Education Materials

A large part of our MS4 Stormwater Permit is public outreach and education. You will notice some outdoor stormwater signage and indoor postings around the base which is meant to educate and remind base personnel of the Navy's commitment to stormwater compliance. The intent is to provide positive reinforcement as well as provide our contact information for reporting spills. Our program has both the pictured magnets available for posting on refrigerators in your command. If a command representative would like to come by and pick some up, please



let us know so we can arrange a time to meet you. Please help us keep these magnets attached to refrigerators and postings posted. EWCCs are our conduit to the tenant commands on base, and your support of our environmental programs goes a long way in ensuring your command's understanding and compliance. If you need additional magnets or replacements, please let us know.



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HOLIDAY RECYCLING + WASTE REDUCTION TIPS**REDUCE:****DON'T OVERDO IT!**

Studies show about 40% of U.S. food goes to waste. Due to smaller groups getting together for the holidays, scale your cooking plans to fit your needs and/ or cook food that you enjoy as leftovers. Also, use your good dinnerware and minimize the use of plastic, paper and foam. The planet will appreciate your extra effort!

If you have used cooking oil, you may bring it to building 2331 for disposal.

REUSE:**MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS**

Instead of buying ornaments, cards, wreaths, décor for around the house, Make them! Try reusing cardboard, paper, finding some plants, leave or flowers outside and get creative. It is an especially great activity for kids!

WRAPPING PAPER

If you still receive a newspaper, or have some brown paper bags from the grocery store, you can turn those into great wrapping paper. Saving and reusing gift bags and packaging material also reduces waste, time and money purchasing new materials.

You may recycle packaging material, and giftwrap at building 2331.

RECYCLE:**HELP OUT YOUR GUEST**

If you have a small gathering for the holidays help out your guest by placing a recycle bin next to the trash bin to help keep recyclables separate.



Help keep wildlife wild and healthy. Please do NOT feed wildlife on base such as ducks, geese, gulls, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, etc.. One way you can help reduce wildlife conflicts with people is by not feeding wildlife near human populations.