

Environmental Insight



Impacts of Stormwater on the Environment

Stormwater picks up and carries numerous pollutants into our waterways. Many of these pollutants can cause problems in very small amounts. The cumulative effects of stormwater runoff on water bodies are evident in Puget Sound. The nearby water bodies that regularly receive untreated stormwater, now suffer from poor water quality. Pollutants in stormwater may include antifreeze, grease, oil, and heavy metals from cars; fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals from gardens, homes and businesses; bacteria from pet wastes and failing septic systems; and sediment from poor construction site practices.

What are the impacts?

- **Sediment** - Sediment enters stormwater when rainwater flows across bare soil. Soil particles become entrained in the runoff and are carried to streams. Sediment reduces water clarity, impedes aquatic plant growth and destroys aquatic habitat.
- **Nutrients** - In urban environments the two largest contributors to nutrients in stormwater runoff are pet waste and fertilizer. Excess nutrients cause algae overgrowths or algal blooms which may be toxic to humans and pets and reduce water oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- **Bacteria and pathogens** - Human and animal waste (pets and wildlife) contribute bacteria and pathogens to stormwater. Animal waste is carried to the storm sewer system by surface run-off. Human waste may enter the storm sewer system due to aging and failing infrastructure, sanitary sewer overflows, and inappropriately maintained septic systems. In excess, these bacteria and pathogens cause illness and result in closing of swimming areas and impairment of streams that limits other recreational use.
- **Trash and debris** - Stormwater runoff picks up trash and pollutants from streets and parking lots. These are carried through the storm sewer system and into our waterways. Trash may choke or suffocate wildlife and is unsightly.
- **Oils, chemicals, and other pollutants** - From leaking automotive fluids to paint brushes rinsed out in the driveway, any chemical that is not properly stored, used, or disposed of has the potential to end up in the storm drain. Pollutants and chemicals alter water chemistry, diminishing water quality that supports many aquatic organisms.

If not properly managed, the volume of stormwater can flood and damage homes and businesses, flood septic system drainfields, erode stream channels, and damage or destroy fish and wildlife habitat. As you enjoy the autumn days, be sure to leave no trace! Clean up your trash, pick up your pet's waste and make sure you maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks.

Only rain down the drain.

Environmental Policy and Plans as well as previous Newsletters are located at:

<https://cnrnw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/Operations-and Management/Environmental-Support-and-Compliance/>

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

Stormwater



Outfall A

Outfall A receives stormwater runoff from Piers A and B as well as the South Wharf.

Naval Station Everett requires all trash to be disposed of in a tied bag and placed into a proper receptacle.

See photo to the left. **Please police your areas on the base to eliminate waste from entering our waterways.**



In accordance with the MS4 permit, the Weekly BMP Inspections have been conducted during Selected Restricted Availabilty. The photos to the right are from Pier A. Any trash will end up in the storm system if left upon the concrete surfaces of Piers A and B or the South Wharf. Outfall A receives stormwater runoff from Piers A and B as well as the South Wharf.

Key Best Management Practices you can do include:

- Please ensure metal items are properly covered and that there is a plan to remove the items from the pier.
- Please ensure general housekeeping is maintained to prevent trash and debris from entering the storm drain.

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 post-

ed. 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.





Trash & Excess Government Property

Trash — Please note that bringing trash from off base is against regulations. **Dumpsters on base are to be used for refuse generated on station and not personal use.** All trash should be bagged and placed into your Command's green dumpster. Ensure that all container lids are closed after disposing of trash. Rope, furniture, metal and any other large or bulky items should not be placed into the dumpster. These types of items possess a safety concern to the ISW Program team handling the materials and can damage our equipment. If large and heavy items are placed into the dumpster, this could cause damage to the truck which uses a mechanically compacted function that allows more efficient collections. Repairs costs are extremely high and lengthy for this type of truck. Please help us keep everyone safe and our equipment operational and call the ISW/Recycle Office at (425) 304-3071 to schedule an appointment to bring these items to building 2331.

Excess Government Property — The Integrated Solid Waste and Qualified Recycling Programs (QRP) have a list of eligible (and a list of ineligible materials) that they are allowed to handle. If your Command has reusable or excess government property or items that are ineligible for the QRP, there are certain requirements for disposal or recycling. Many items **MUST** be turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at Fort Lewis. This requires planning in advance. Start by locating the National Stock Number (NSN) for the excess items. A Local Stock Number (LSN) may be used as a last resort, if you cannot identify a valid NSN. It is inherent that you determine the DEMIL demilitarization) code for each item. A QRP is only allowed to accept DEMIL A items that are on the eligible list. All other DEMIL codes are required to go to DLA. Create an electronic turn-in document, DD Form 1348-1A. Once approved, you will need 4 copies. Then schedule a date/time to turn in your materials at DLA Fort Lewis. The scheduler may be a few months out. Questions regarding the turn in process, should be sent to DRMSLewisDSR@dla.mil. Please note that the ISW/QRP Program is not authorized to override any turn in requirements regarding DLA. We need everyone to do their part in order to efficiently and properly dispose of government items.

Natural Resources

For your awareness, the highly pathogenic avian influenza has now been detected in dead harbor seals. No one is authorized to handle bird or marine mammal carcasses on base. Please help us keep everyone safe and call the Contract Official Representative at (425) 304-3665.



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.