

PET WASTE



Pet waste is not something people typically think of as pollution, but discarded pet waste often gets washed by rain into rivers, lakes, and streams causing an increase of nitrogen, phosphorus, parasites, and fecal bacteria to water bodies.

The pollution from pet waste promotes the growth of aquatic weeds and algae which can result in a harmful environment for fish and other aquatic life. The high levels of nitrogen in pet waste can damage plants on land as well. Plus, the bacteria and parasites in the fecal waste can be harmful to people and other animals.

Here are a few tips you can use to keep your pet from polluting our water:

- **Walk** your dog in grassy areas, parks or undeveloped areas rather than streams, ponds and lake banks.
- **Scoop** your pet poop. Take a plastic bag with you on your walk and place the bag in the trash.
- **Flush** pet waste down the toilet. If you are on public sewer, the waste is not mixed with other materials (dirt, grass, leaves, etc.). Do NOT flush kitty litter.
- **Bury** pet waste in your yard, at least six inches deep, away from waterways and gardens.

Note: Don't put pet waste in a compost pile. While animal manures can make useful fertilizer, parasites carried in dog and cat feces can cause diseases in humans and should not be incorporated into compost piles.



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