

What Goes in the Ground, Goes in the Water

Groundwater Protection

Groundwater is one of our most important resources. It makes up 95% of the country's freshwater resources. Groundwater can easily be polluted by activities on land. Sometimes groundwater is used as a source of drinking water. If groundwater becomes polluted, it is very expensive, or often impossible, to clean up.

Your help is needed to keep pollutants from seeping into the ground and off the streets, driveways and sidewalks, where they might flow into our storm drains – the grated openings in the street - which lead to our rivers and streams or even sometimes down into the earth through stormwater injection devices like drywells.

What you do every day can protect groundwater

In your yard

Water from raindrops or lawn sprinklers can carry the bug and weed killers we use in our yards through the soil into the groundwater. Water flowing across the lawn or over our driveways can also carry these chemicals into our storm drains, posing a threat to groundwater and surface waters

Grow a natural lawn and garden. Many people have healthy lawns without the use of toxic lawn chemicals like fertilizers & pesticides. Use compost, manure or mulch to improve your soil and help your plants grow better.

Easy does it. Weed and feed are overkill. Hand pull or spot spray weeds rather than spraying your entire yard.



Give good bugs a break. Spraying may kill the good bugs that are eating the bad bugs.

If you choose to use lawn chemicals, avoid overuse and please follow the application directions carefully.

Around the house

Chemicals we use around the house, such as cleaning solvents, paint, paint thinner and gasoline are extremely toxic. If spilled outside, they could be discharged into the ground - creating groundwater pollution - or it could flow into a storm drain and pollute rivers & streams.



Never dump excess chemicals, such as your engine oils, paint thinners and other

household products on the ground or into the storm drains. Use them carefully and – when you're done using them - please

call your local recycling center for information on how to properly recycle them or you can dispose of these items at a hazardous waste collection site.

Driving your car

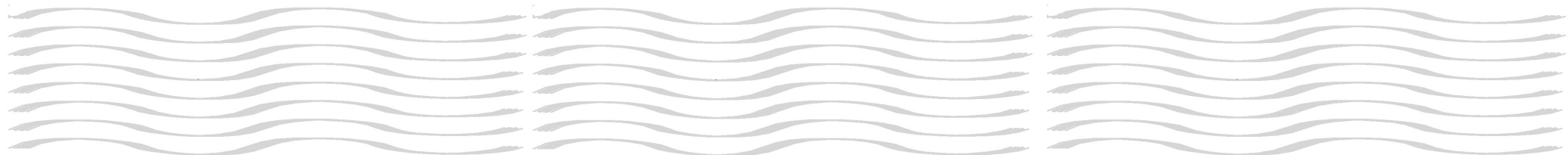
Automobile-related pollutants, such as oil drips, anti-freeze leaks, or the soapy wastewater from your weekly car wash in the driveway, can seep untreated into the ground or into surface waters.



Recycle your used motor oil.

Take your car to a tunnel car wash instead of washing it on your driveway or in the street. Wash water contains soap and oil which pollute groundwater. Tunnel car washes recycle up to 90 percent of their water and any excess is discharged to the local sewer system. If you do wash your car at home, select a washing area where cars can be driven onto grass or gravel for washing, or where runoff will drain to a landscaped area.

Keep your car well maintained so it doesn't leak fluids onto your driveway or the roads. Rain will usually wash these pollutants into the storm drains, causing water pollution.



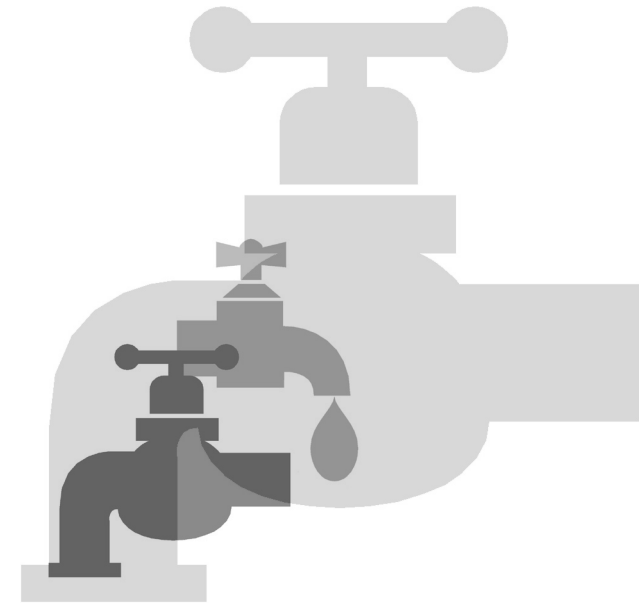
- By being aware and learning more about protecting our groundwater, you are already helping to solve groundwater pollution problems.
- For more information about groundwater resources in your area call:

For additional information on groundwater resources in Oregon, visit the **Groundwater Stewardship in Oregon** website at: <http://groundwater.oregonstate.edu>

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