

Don't Run Off Salmon

Radio Public Service Announcements



Stormdrains, general

It's raining, it's pouring and storm drains are filling. Polluted stormwater goes untreated and runs-off into local streams, rivers, lakes and eventually into the ocean. The same goes for anything else that runs down a storm drain, such as used motor oil or paint. Don't run-off salmon: protect our waterways and properly dispose of paint and other hazardous substances, don't litter, and recycle your used motor oil.

Used Motor Oil

Did you know that 1 quart of motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water? Every year in the U.S., millions of gallons of used motor oil, chemicals, and other wastes are disposed of illegally – down a storm drain or in the trash. Don't run-off salmon. Please do your part to keep our waterways healthy. Contact your local waste management provider for more information on where to take used motor oil.

Pet Waste

Think picking up your pet's waste is unpleasant? How about swimming in it? Every time it rains, run-off from lawns, sidewalks, and trails carries bacteria and other organisms from your pets' waste into local streams, rivers and lakes, eventually flowing into the ocean. Don't run-off salmon and keep stormwater clean. Please dispose of pet waste properly by bagging it and throwing it away.

Washing Vehicles

Planning to wash your car this weekend? Ever wonder where all that water goes after it runs off your car, and onto the pavement? This water does not get treated and carries oil, soaps, and cleaners into storm drains; it flows directly into local streams and eventually reaches the ocean. Don't run-off salmon: consider using biodegradable cleaning products. If possible, wash your car on the lawn or take it to a carwash facility that recycles its water.

Litter & Stormwater

When it rains in our watershed, pollutants are washed off roads, lawns and other surfaces. This run-off is called stormwater. Polluted stormwater can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation,

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foul drinking water supplies, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant. If you wouldn't want it in your water it's a safe bet that wildlife wouldn't either. Don't run-off salmon: use receptacles and keep our communities litter-free.

Snow

Snow is stormwater, too. Although in a solid state, it still carries with it, the grease, grime, street trash, and sand that collects and eventually pollutes local waterways as it melts and drains. As always, don't litter, pick up dog waste, and be mindful of vehicle leaks, as they are rather visible on snow-covered surfaces. Don't run-off salmon - By keeping streets clean, you're keeping waters clean.

Car Maintenance

It's raining, it's pouring, toxic rainbow puddles are forming? Someone's car is leaking toxic fluids. When toxics enter the storm drain system or leach into the soil, surface and groundwater supplies are contaminated. This means your drinking water supplies are put at risk as well as salmon habitat. You rely on your car for safe, convenient transportation; why not treat it right and protect water quality at the same time? Do your share, don't run-off salmon - repair auto fluid leaks right as soon as possible.

Fuel Tanks

In case of flooding, is your fuel tank secured? Every year during torrential downpours and heavy flooding, fuel tanks dislodge and float away. Secure small fuel containers, fuel tanks and barrels used to store fuel so this doesn't happen. Above ground tanks, including propane tanks may shift or fall causing fuel lines to kink, weaken or break, or fittings may be loosened or damaged. If the flooding has caused a fuel, oil, or other hazardous substances spill, report it to DEC. Don't run-off salmon - keep fuel in its place.

De-Icing

When things get icy this winter, be conservative with the salt you spread. Too much salt is bad news for local freshwater bodies and their inhabitants. Be aware that what you sweep or shovel off your sidewalk and driveway can end up in a stream. When snow melts in the spring spread the sand and grit onto turf instead of sweeping it into the street. Don't run-off salmon with excess salt or sand.

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Trails

Just as run-off carries away pollutants from roadways, lawns and sidewalks, it also travels down miles upon miles of hiking trails. What's left on trails flows to the nearest waterway. You wouldn't want litter or pet wastes making their way to your front door, so don't let it collect in critical salmon habitat. Don't run-off salmon: pack out what you pack in on the trail.

Habitat

Salmon need clean, clear waters for suitable spawning conditions. Murky waters from excess sediment cloud chances for salmon to successfully spawn and produce future generations of healthy salmon. Sediment is of particular concern in fish bearing streams where it can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, smother trout and salmon eggs, destroy habitat for insects (a food source for fish), and cover prime spawning areas. Soil makes waterways cloudy and can suffocate fish by clogging their gills. Not only are fish populations affected but also so is anyone that enjoys eating salmon or makes a living from commercial fishing.

Don't run-off salmon and make sure only rain goes down the storm drain so anyone that enjoys these foods or makes a living from the seafood industry is affected. Reduced oxygen levels in these waters are often particularly severe after a storm. If dissolved oxygen levels in water become too low, aquatic animals can become stressed or die. Salmon and trout are particularly at risk because they need high dissolved oxygen levels to live. Prevent paying for damage down the road, don't run-off salmon and keep stormwater clean.