

A Newsletter Of



Richland
City of Richland
Solid Waste & Recycling

509-942-7498 or 509-942-7730
www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro

Spring 2009



E-Cycle Washington!

The City of Richland, in partnership with E-Cycle Washington, is now accepting electronics for recycling at the Horn Rapids Sanitary Landfill. Recycling is provided free of charge to residents and small businesses. Items accepted at no charge include monitors, CPUs, laptops, and televisions. These electronics will be recycled. Peripherals, such as printers, scanners, copiers, keyboards, and mice, are not covered under this program. The Horn Rapids Landfill, located off of State Route 240 on

Twin Bridges Road, is open Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you have equipment that is newer and in working condition, consider selling it or giving it away. You can post free listings of electronics and other items at www.2good2toss.com, <http://kpr.craigslist.org>, or www.bluepixeldesign.com/tricities_freecycle. Computers can also be donated to Columbia Basin College (contact Tony Sako at 547-0511, ext. 2397 or tsako@columbia-basin.edu) or the RECA Foundation (details

at 543-2910 or <http://cbpin.org/technology/reuse.html>).

E-Cycle Washington was kicked off in January. Recycling is provided at no charge to residents and small businesses thanks to funding from the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority, which is a group funded by electronics manufacturers. All electronics handled through this program are taken to authorized collectors and recycled in accordance with State Department of Ecology standards.

For more information or a list of additional drop-off sites, visit E-Cycle Washington on the web at www.ecycle-washington.org.

Yard debris boxes out

Drop-box containers will be in place for spring yard debris cleanup from April 6 through April 26. Containers are to be used by Richland residents for the disposal of **bagged leaves and other yard debris only!** Drop-box containers will be placed at the following locations on the dates listed:

- April 6 - 12 at the Richland Pool, 1005 Swift Boulevard
- April 13 - 19 at Leslie Groves Park, corner of Snyder Street and Harris

Avenue, in north Richland

- April 20 - 26 at Badger Mountain Park, 350 Keene Road, in south Richland

Please do NOT place any of the following materials into these yard debris drop boxes: construction debris, chemical products, liquid waste, hazardous waste, automotive products, commercial waste, tires, or appliances.

If you have questions, please call 942-7490 or 942-7497.

What are your plans for Earth Month?

Mid-Columbia Earth Month, held each April, will include cleanups, educational opportunities, hikes, storytime and craft activities at the library, tree care programs and tree plantings, festivities, and special projects, such as the aluminum can contest, storm drain stenciling, greeting card recycling, and cell phone recycling collections. Activities begin in late March and continue through the end of April.

At the end of the month, don't miss the Sustainable Energy & Environmental Expo on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. This FREE event will have lots of great activities focused on alternative energy sources and how to live a more sustainable life. Activities include interactive displays, speakers, a Solar Car Challenge on Friday with fifth graders racing their homemade solar-powered model cars, and the Electrathon America electric car endurance race on Saturday. Members of the public are welcome both days, but Friday will be "Kids & Schools Day" and Saturday will be "Family Day," so activities will vary.

Last year, nearly 20,000 residents of all ages took our "Earth Pledge" and got involved with one or more events. This year's theme is "Choose to Reuse." You choose what you will reuse. Bring your coffee cup to avoid throwaway containers, refill water bottles, take reusable bags to the grocery store, or donate to second-hand stores and shop there, too!

April is Earth Month - Get Involved!



SEE EXPO Sustainable Energy & Environmental Expo

April 24th & 25th 2009
at Columbia Basin College

DID YOU KNOW that GOING GREEN can Save you money on your monthly energy bill?

Find out how at the SEE Expo!

Workshops * Demonstrations * Educational Displays & More

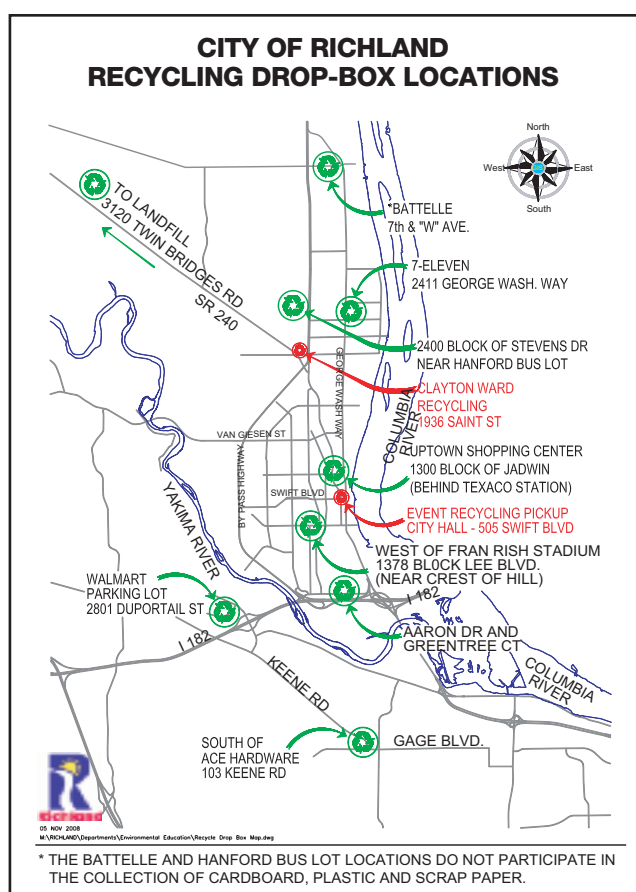


For more information on this and other great Earth Month events visit www.EarthMonthMC.org

Recycling in Richland

Richland residents can recycle cardboard, newspaper, steel/tin cans, aluminum, glass, plastic beverage containers, and various scrap paper products, including phone books, pressboard boxes, and junk mail, in nine drop boxes located throughout the city (see map).

For additional information on recycling at school, home, or business or at events, visit the City's Environmental Education website at www.ci.richland.wa.us, and link to "Living," then "Environmental Education," and then "Recycling Info." In addition to learning about recycling at home, school, work, and events, you will also be able to learn about our recycling container loan program and to download helpful flyers.



Protect your identity!

Crime Stoppers, in partnership with CI Shred, will host a shredding event for residents' confidential papers on Saturday, April 18, at Target locations in Kennewick and Richland. Residents may bring one banker's box or two grocery bags of papers to be shredded. This service is free, but donations are accepted and appreciated.

10 tips for Greener Cleaning



(c) Ivonne Wierink / SnapVillage.com

Read more about it!

485 Ways to Clean, Polish, Disinfect, Deodorize, and Remove Stains
Clean and Green: The Complete Guide to Nontoxic and Environmentally Safe Housekeeping by Annie Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, 1994)

All-Purpose Cleaners Buying Guide
www.thegreenguide.com/buying-guide/all-purpose-cleaners

Clean Your House Without Hurting the Planet

www.grist.org/advice/possessions/2003/03/18/possessions-cleaning/

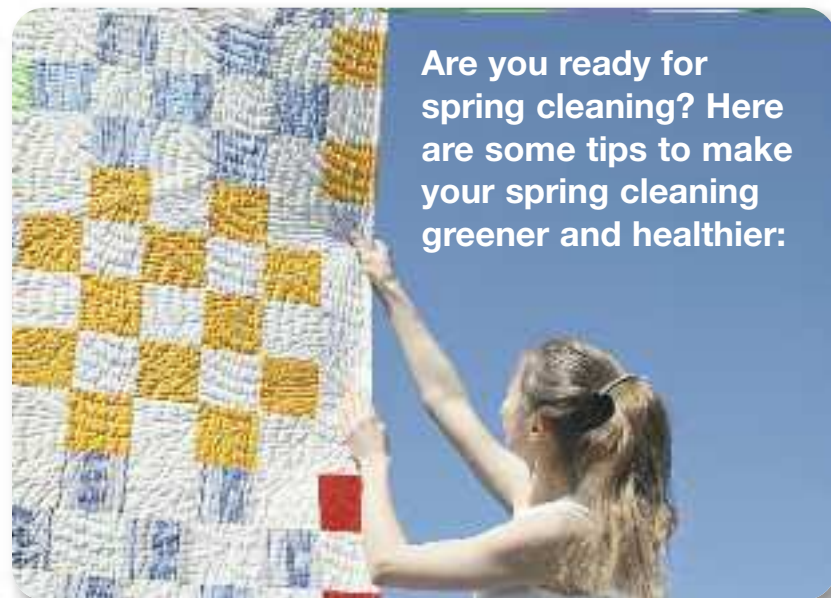
Greener Cleaning
www.thegreenguide.com/home-garden/cleaning

How to Go Green: Cleaning
<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/green-cleaning/>

How to Make a Non-Toxic Cleaning Kit
www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html

Non-Toxic Home Cleaning
www.earthesy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm

A Test of Green Cleaners
www.grist.org/advice/products/2008/03/25/



(c) Anita Salsara / SnapVillage.com

Are you ready for spring cleaning? Here are some tips to make your spring cleaning greener and healthier:

1. Open the windows. After the house has been closed up for most of the winter, the best thing to do is to give it a good airing out. On a pleasant spring day, throw open the windows and give the house a few hours to breathe in the fresh air.
2. Think mechanical first. A scrub brush, a dish scrubber, and a retired toothbrush can provide a lot of cleaning power with no chemicals at all. Drain baskets keep drains free of debris that can lead to clogs.
3. Use up chemicals that you have on hand before purchasing replacement products. If you have cleaners stored in multiple locations (some in the laundry room, others under the kitchen sink, and a few in the garage), find them and inventory what you have available.
4. Consider creating your own cleaners from common household products, such as vinegar, baking soda, salt, lemon juice, and mineral oil. Many of these cleaners are easy to make, effective, and less expensive than pre-mixed chemical solutions. (Remember that even homemade cleaners can be irritating to skin and eyes. Always use caution in mixing, storing, and using homemade cleaners.)

5. If you choose to purchase a cleaning product, choose the mildest and most benign chemical product available. Although it is not mandatory, a few manufacturers do voluntarily provide a complete list of ingredients. Try to select products that provide you complete information on ingredients, offer the most clear instructions on use, and don't require extraordinary safety measures for use or disposal.
6. When you purchase products or containers, look for recycled-content and recyclable containers. Rather than using paper towels, use reusable towels and old rags. If you purchase paper towels, please choose those made from recycled-content paper.
7. Buying concentrates reduces packaging waste. Some cleaning products are now sold in concentrated form; you finish making the solution by adding tap water at home. Other products, such as laundry detergent, are concentrated and ready to use when you get home. Remember—if you have softened water, you can use even less detergent.
8. Keep unfinished products in their original, labeled containers. *Never* pour potentially harmful chemicals into food or beverage containers for storage. Store all cleaning products out of reach of children and away from pets. Do not store potentially hazardous materials close to sources of heat or in direct sunlight.
9. Dispose of containers and unused chemicals properly. Follow the label instructions. If the instructions are unclear, call the manufacturer for more details or call us.
10. Make sure everyone in your family knows about your new "greener cleaning" habits.

On the GO

If you're trying to trim your expenses, you may be walking or biking more. Walking and biking are good for your health and your pocketbook. Of course, they are also better for our environment because walking and biking don't require fuel or spew out emissions.

However, if you like to take a cup of coffee with you when you leave the house, what are you supposed to do? Reusable travel mugs are fine if you are walking, but may not be fully leak-proof when you bike. There's a simple, waste-free solution—thermal or canteen bottles. The thermal-style bottles keep hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold. These bottles can be sealed, so you can put them into a backpack or bag without worrying about leaks and spills. Many have a built-in loop to allow you to hang the bottle from your handle bars. Others have insulated pouches with handles or loops. Still others will fit right into your bike's water bottle holder.

If your drink of choice is water or a sports drink, you can use the same style bottles. Simply fill the clean bottle with tap water or sports drink from your gallon jug.

Look for leak-proof thermal bottles at local stores. Many carry these bottles and accessories. Or, go online and search for "thermo bottles."



(c) Chrstock / SnapVillage.com

Hope for harried readers Planet Green

"Like money, books must be kept in constant circulation. Lend and borrow to the maximum."

At a time when many have had to tighten their belts, novelist Henry Miller offers good advice for readers. Enjoying a good book doesn't require buying a new copy or even owning it. Books can be borrowed, shared, and swapped. The pleasure is the same, but the cost is less.

The library is, of course, the least expensive way to enjoy good books. You can borrow from the local library's many resources. All you need is a library card.

Another option is used bookstores. When you buy used books, you often pay only one-quarter to one-half of the original price. Some of the "used" books have never even been read. Many secondhand stores sell books, and books are a common item at garage sales, as well.

Sharing books with friends is free. Often, you and your friends enjoy the same types of books or authors. You can also spread your enthusiasm for a book that you couldn't put down by passing it along to a new reader.

In addition to these local resources, there are many online options as well:

- Book Crossing is a program that allows people to "read and release"

books. If you want to release a book or are hunting for one, visit www.bookcrossing.com.

- Several sites offer readers the chance to trade one or more books with other readers, usually for just the cost of shipping. For more information about book swaps by mail, visit www.bookins.com, www.bookmooch.com, www.paperbackswap.com, or www.swaptree.com.

- If you've ever wondered why there isn't a "Netflix" for books, your wait is over. BookSwim allows readers to rent books. This concept is not new. Before the age of downloadable audiobooks, readers could rent books on tape (and later on CD) by mail. Now, readers can rent bestsellers at a fraction of the purchase price. For more information, go to www.bookswim.com.

Books aren't the only media that can be borrowed, shared, swapped, or purchased used, of course. The same applies to DVDs and CDs, as well as many magazines.

You don't have to give up at-home entertainment, but you can lower its cost by lending and borrowing to the maximum.



(c) FutureDigitalDesign / SnapVillage.com

If you have a pay-TV service, such as cable or satellite, you may be getting the Planet Green network. If you enjoy the Discovery channel, you'll like Planet Green.

Planet Green offers a variety of original programs. If you love home renovation or want to know how to live an everyday green life, you'll be able to watch shows like *Living With Ed*, *Renovation Nation*, *Total Wrecklamation*, *Wa\$ted!*, *World's Greenest Homes*, *Focus Earth*, and *Greenovate*. Maybe you're more interested in food. Check out *Emeril Green* or *Supper Club*. If you're wondering what is new in transportation, catch an episode of *Mean Green Machines*. Do you love entertainment news? Watch *Hollywood Green*. How about a game show? Play along with *Go for the Green*.

In addition to the programming, you'll find "Go Green" tips at the website, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/>, along with games and video clips. There is even a convenient "channel finder" — all you need to know is your ZIP code and your pay-TV service provider.

QUOTES REQUOTED



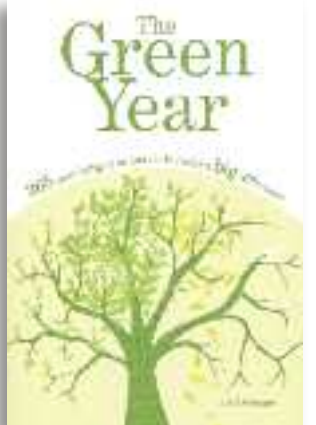
The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.

Wendell Berry, 1934—
American farmer and poet

Greening your year

Looking for small steps that will make a big difference? Check out *The Green Year: 365 Small Things You Can Do to Make a Big Difference* by Jodi Helmer (Penguin Group, 2008). This book has one simple idea for each day of the year. Each page also has a spot for you to check off that you've done the activity or to write your own alternative that will work better for you and your family.

The ideas include reducing waste, saving energy, and much more. Some days suggest things that you probably already do—or have thought about doing—such as replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents and sharing magazines. Other days give you new and fun ideas. For instance, when you stop at your favorite ice cream shop, don't get ice cream in a cup. Instead, order your ice cream in an edible and waste-free cone. Here's another one: Clean out your car's trunk or cargo area and improve your gas mileage. According to Helmer, an extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce your fuel efficiency by 2 percent.



CLIP AND SAVE



(c) Maypop / SnapVillage.com

Each year in the U.S., gas-powered lawn mowers consume more than 720 million gallons of gasoline. At the same time, these mowers spit out harmful air pollutants and disturb the peace and quiet of our spring and summer days.

However, gas-powered mowers aren't the only way to keep your lawn looking good. Electric mowers are quieter and exhaust-free. Some electric mowers need an extension cord, but many of the newer ones contain a rechargeable battery. With battery-powered models, you simply plug in the mower to charge it and then unplug it while you cut the grass. These cordless mowers are heavier and a bit more difficult to maneuver than the corded models. Neither type requires oil changes or gasoline. You do have the cost for electricity, but that may be as little as \$5-10 per year.

Another—and even more environmentally friendly—option is a manual reel lawn mower. Here are just a few of the great reasons to use a reel mower:

- Reel mowers leave behind healthier grass plants because they "snip" the grass, cutting it in the same way that a pair of scissors would. (Powered rotary mowers actually tear the grass blades.)
- Manual mowers don't need gasoline, so an empty gas can will never change your plans. They also don't require an electrical charge, so you don't have to remember to plug them in.
- Push reel mowers produce no harmful emissions and emit no exhaust into your face and your neighborhood's air.
- Manual mowers are whisper-quiet, allowing you to hear your children playing and to enjoy the birds chirping. You can still listen to your music on headphones, but you won't have to!
- You'll enjoy a brisk walk and some resistance training while you mow.
- Reel mowers are virtually maintenance-free. Occasionally, the bearings and cutting edges may need a little lubricant and a slight adjustment. The cutters will need to be sharpened every couple of years.
- You'll never struggle with the pull cord on a manual mower. Simply start walking and the mower starts, too.
- Reel mowers take less space in the garage or shed.
- Push reel mowers are the cheapest to purchase, operate, and maintain.

A manual reel mower isn't right for every yard. The mowers are best suited to smaller yards, such as those that are 10,000 square feet (about one-quarter acre) or less. However, many of today's yards are no bigger than this.

If you'd like more information about reel mowers (or about electric mowers), ask at your hardware store, lawn and garden center, or home supply store. You can also learn more at www.cleanaingardening.com, www.planetnatural.com, www.gardeners.com, www.reelin.com, or www.reelmowerguide.com/.

WHAT'S UP?

A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide created by our everyday activities. Carbon dioxide, the most plentiful greenhouse gas, traps the sun's heat and contributes to global climate change. The United States is the world's largest source of greenhouse gases. With only 4% of the world's population, the U.S. contributes 25% of global greenhouse gas pollution. In Washington State, transportation accounts for about half of our total carbon footprint and energy consumption accounts for about 20%. In our day-to-day lives, we all leave an impression on the environment.

As we learn more about climate change and global warming, we see opportunities each of us can take to reduce our "carbon footprint." The Department of Ecology has launched a website to help you understand more about reducing your carbon footprint. There is an online pledge that makes it even easier to understand and participate, plus you receive a beautiful sun catcher made from recycled glass as a reminder of your pledge. For more information, visit www.ecy.wa.gov/forms/carbonfootprint_pledge.html.

Compost, anyone?

Learn how to compost and earn a free composting bin during the spring workshop on Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Mid-Columbia Library, off Union Street in Kennewick. This free workshop will teach you how and why to compost organic yard and kitchen waste.

Information on reducing solid waste will also be provided, including recycling information, disposal of household hazardous waste, and current litter and backyard burning laws. There will also be a section on worm composting, with worms and castings available for purchase from a local worm farmer. All participants will receive a free composting bin and book for attending. Seating is limited.

For more information, or to register for this free program, call 942-7730.

City of Richland Environmental Education Office

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www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro

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70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS
CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

Please recycle this publication
after you have read it!

Greening our schools

Two Richland schools, River's Edge High School and Oasis School, are participating in a Washington Green Schools pilot project. The program is a voluntary, web-based program designed to assist schools in reducing their environmental and carbon footprints. The program provides hands-on experience, builds student leadership and project management skills, and includes community education and involvement. Participating schools take action in water quality and conservation, recycling and waste reduction, toxics reduction and indoor air quality, transportation and outdoor air quality, and energy efficiency.

For more information, visit www.wagreenschools.org.



Simple steps to reduce your garbage

The average Washingtonian tosses about eight pounds of trash each day. Packaging alone makes up about 33% of all of our garbage and about 20% is compostable.

The family that reduces waste in the home helps protect the environment. Waste reduction is as important as recycling in saving natural resources, energy, disposal space, and costs, and in reducing pollution risks.



- Use a mulching lawnmower to mow the lawn and to dispose of leaves and other lightweight yard debris. Lightly layer on grass and mow over it! Leaves and grass clippings can also be placed on the garden or around the roots of trees and plants.
- Repair/restore used items before replacing them with new ones.
- Use reusable shopping and tote bags. Keep reusable bags in your car so they are available when you need them. Shoppers use over 40 million plastic or paper bags a year. Even better, avoid using one for small purchases. You can carry the item and feel good knowing you did your part!
- Reuse jars, bottles, or other containers. Some schools and other organizations can use your unneeded items for craft projects. Call or post your unwanted items on electronic bulletin boards, such as www.2good2toss.com or <http://kpr.craigslist.org>.
- Having a large event or reunion? Set out recycling containers, label them clearly, and place them near garbage cans. You can use empty waste containers, buckets, pails, boxes, or paper bags. You can also borrow recycling containers from the city of Richland. Visit www.ci.richland.wa.us, link to "Living," then "Environmental Education," and then "Event Recycling."
- Find a reuse for your toxic wastes. If you have a chemical product that is no longer needed, drop it off at the Benton County Moderate Risk Waste Facility for customer reuse. In addition, check out the items they have for free. Need paint? Containers that are over half full and in good condition are available for reuse. Large quantities of off-white, brown, or gray paint are available by reservation only; call 942-7387.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste, such as unneeded cleaners, automotive fluids, paint and related products, batteries, and lawn and garden chemicals. Each of these cities will host a special collection event this spring: Richland, West Richland, Prosser, Benton City, and Kennewick. For dates, materials accepted, and other details, call your city hall.

For more information on waste reduction, contact your city's solid waste department or call Richland's Environmental Education Coordinator at 942-7730. You may also visit www.ci.richland.wa.us and link to "Living" and then "Environmental Education."

Recycle your fluorescent bulbs

Home Depot in Richland has joined the Benton County Moderate Risk Facility in accepting fluorescent light bulbs for recycling. Fluorescent light bulbs use one-quarter the energy of standard incandescent light bulbs but contain a small amount of mercury and should not be placed in the trash. When fluorescent tubes and bulbs burn out, remove and place them in a protective box or wrap them in newspaper and place them in a bag.

Deliver your fluorescents to one of these locations for proper disposal and recycling:

- Customer Returns Desk or Customer Service Counter, Home Depot, 2855 Duportail
- Moderate Risk Facility, Horn Rapids Landfill, 3120 Twin Bridges Road

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) sales are booming, as consumers use the spiral "curly bulbs" to make homes and living more energy efficient. These lights represented 20 percent of the market in 2007, up from just 11 percent in 2006. If every American replaced just one light bulb with a fluorescent bulb, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to more than 800,000 cars.

However, a Department of Ecology study last year revealed that only 20 percent of fluorescent bulbs and lamps were being properly recycled.



Make natural cleaning products!

For information on how to make your own natural cleaning products, visit Richland's home page, www.ci.richland.wa.us/RICHLAND/enviro, and click on "Natural Alternative Recipes." If you do not have Internet access, just give the office a call, 942-7730, and we'll mail a "recipe book" to you.

Can dog waste really harm our water quality?

Dog waste is raw sewage. It contains bacteria and parasites, which can cause many diseases, some of them deadly. Contrary to what many assume, dog waste does not biodegrade. Some roundworms can live in soil for four years, and temperatures over 140 degrees Fahrenheit are needed to kill bacteria such as E. coli and Salmonella.

Although it varies from place to place, dog waste is consistently found to be a primary source of bacterial contamination in urban and suburban streams. Contamination is spread on the shoes of innocent victims and carried by stormwater runoff into water sources like the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. As the waste begins to decay, it uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels, increased ammonia, and warm summer water temperatures can result in fish kills. Excess phosphorus and nitrogen added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of this extra organic matter can depress oxygen levels, killing organisms.



© iStockphoto.com / Simon Podgorsek

To properly dispose of your pet's waste, carry plastic bags with you when you walk the dog. Grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, and produce bags work fine, so you don't have to purchase special pet waste bags. Place the bag over your hand, pick up the waste, tie the bag shut, and place it in the trash. Do not flush or compost the waste.