

# Clean Water...It Starts With You

## Tackling Non-Point Source Water Pollution in BC

The well-being of British Columbians depends on sustainable supplies of clean water for their physical health and for a healthy environment to live and play in. BC's economy also depends on clean water for activities such as fishing, agriculture, and tourism.

### Urban Runoff

Pet wastes, yard debris, paints, vehicle emissions, used or unwanted motor vehicle fluids, car-washing residues, oil and grease from driveways, litter, fertilizers, pesticides and household hazardous chemicals are some urban pollutants that can be carried by water running over land and paved surfaces. This water can flow into storm drains and reach local water bodies, without being treated in any way.

### Onsite Sewage Systems

Onsite sewage systems which are not properly maintained can cause drain fields to become plugged and cause partially treated wastewater to surface on your lawn and/or flow to nearby water bodies. Wastewater from improperly constructed or located sewage systems can also pollute groundwater.



### Non-point Source Pollution

Non-point source (NPS) water pollution is the release of pollutants to surface or ground waters from one or more activities over a broad area. Simply, it's polluted runoff. As water flows over and through the land, it carries contaminants and debris into water bodies. It is often the commutative effect of several sources and pollutants which impact the environment.

### Agriculture

Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, along with parasites and bacteria from livestock waste, can run off farmland and pollute surface water or seep into the ground and pollute groundwater. Livestock movement near and in streams can erode stream banks and destroy fish habitat.

### Boating

Sewage, garbage, dishwater, cleaning and refinishing products and fuel leaks from boats can all damage water quality.

## Our Actions All Add Up!

For more information, contact the Environmental Protection Division  
P.O. Box 9339  
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1  
[Http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/index.html](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/index.html)  
e-mail: [envprotdiv@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:envprotdiv@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)

 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection