



Resource for Clean Water

Hazardous waste:

If it says “danger,” “caution,” or “warning” on it, it’s probably hazardous waste! We’ll accept up to 25 gallons of hazardous waste for free from homeowners. Find a long list of what we accept, locations and hours at skagitcounty.net/hazwaste.

Fertilizers:

Keep our waters safe from algae blooms! Always get a soil test before using fertilizer. Soil tests run about \$20, plus shipping. If the lab you use gives you a choice, be sure to choose to get results WITH recommendations so that they interpret the results for you.

How to sample: You'll find a great guide on how to take your soil sample here: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec628>.

Where to send it: Below are several labs recommended by the Skagit Conservation District.

- Simply Soil Testing, Burlington WA <http://www.simplysoiltesting.com/>
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>
- Soiltest Farm Consultants, Moses Lake WA <https://soiltestlab.com/>
- A&L Laboratories, Portland OR <http://www.al-labs-west.com/>

When in doubt: Choose a fertilizer that does not have phosphorus in it. Our native soils are already high in phosphorus. Make sure it’s at least 50% slow-release, so that nutrients get released over time. Or, grasscycle instead of fertilizing! Leave lawn clippings on the lawn to break down and feed your grass just like a slow-release fertilizer.

Dog poop, septic systems, and spills:

DNA markers for dog poop have been found in nearly every stream we’ve sampled looking for them. Scoop the poop in yards, on walks, and in parks. Bag it, and always throw the bags in the trash.

A well-maintained septic system can last 30 years or more! Septic inspections are part of routine maintenance, and they can save you money by finding small problems before they get big and expensive.

You can find information about dog poop, farm management, and your septic system all at poopsmart.org.

If you see a spill or someone illegally discharging sewage (or any other pollutant) into a ditch or waterway, please report it as soon as possible! Photo documentation and license plates are especially helpful for our investigation. You call our Water Quality hotline at 360-416-1400, or report it online at skagitcounty.net/cleanwater.



Vehicle maintenance

Fluid leaks, grimy water from washing cars, and tire debris are all major sources of pollution in Puget Sound.

- Wash your car at a commercial car wash, or wash it on the lawn or a gravel surface where water can filter through the soil.
- Check your tires regularly to ensure that they are properly inflated. Poorly inflated tires wear out faster, costing you money and leaving more tire particles on the ground to wash into our waterways in the next storm.
- Fix car leaks! If you can't afford to fix them, put cardboard or another absorbent material under them when parked overnight to catch leaks. You can get more information on how to diagnose a car leak and what to do about it at fixcarleaks.org.

Got other questions? We've (usually) got answers!

You can always explore our websites at skagitcounty.net/cleanwater and skagitcounty.net/stormwater.

If you can't find your answer, send us a note or give us a call and we'll be happy to help!

kdubose@co.skagit.wa.us, or 360-416-1460.