

Clean Water is Important to All of Us!

Did you know that storm drains are **NOT** connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Pet waste contains significant bacteria, that could end up in our gutters, streets, channels and eventually the ocean. Disposal of pet waste into gutters, streets and storm drains causes serious harm to aquatic life and the environment—and is **PROHIBITED** by law.

Enforcement

The City promptly responds to all complaints of illegal discharges to the storm drain system.

If you see anyone discharging anything directly or indirectly into the street, please call City Hall immediately at (562) 866-9771 as City staff needs to witness the violation in progress.

Pet owners may be held responsible for violations and costs associated with clean up, investigations and violations, fines or citations from the City, County, State and Federal regulatory agencies as well as any third party enforcement actions.

Doo the Right Thing...Pick Up After Your Pets!

Pledge to DOO the Right Thing

I, _____ (your name), resident of Lakewood, pledge my family's commitment to **DOO the Right Thing for the love of our pet and to protect our water quality, maintain a clean community and a healthy environment by picking up after my pet.**

We are committed to:

- Picking up after our pet when we go on walks in our neighborhood or in the park**
- Picking up the backyard on a regular basis**
- Disposing of pet waste in the garbage.**

For the love of _____ (your pet's name).



City of Lakewood

For more information or assistance, please call the City of Lakewood's Public Works Department at (562) 866-9771 extension 2500.



City of
Lakewood

Best
Management
Practices

**Doo The Right
Thing!**



**Pet Waste
and Water
Quality**

What is the Problem With Pet Waste?

Did you Know... There are an estimated 78.2 million owned dogs in the United States. That's 15 billion pounds of poop per year! When it rains, the potential exists for thousands of pounds of pet waste to wash down Lakewood's streets, storm drains, channels and into the ocean all untreated! That means harmful bacteria associated with pet waste is going to our water.



Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

What's the Impacts of Pet Waste?

When it rains, pet waste that has been left on lawns, trails, sidewalks or in the gutter is washed into the street entering the storm drain system and eventually ending up in the ocean untreated. As the pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia, com-

bined with warm water temperatures, can kill fish and other aquatic life.

Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth, which makes water cloudy, green and unattractive for swimming, fishing and other aquatic activities.



What You can Doo...

Stepping in pet waste is annoying—it smells; attracts flies and can be a source of parasites and infections for other pets and for children who play outside. Contact with pet waste can cause illnesses.

- Pick up pet waste from your yard. It is not fertilizer or compost.
- Do not leave pet waste on sidewalks, streets, gutters or other surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, streets or channels
- Carry disposable bags while walking your pet.
- Dispose of the pet waste in the trash.
- Pick up after your pets before cleaning patios, sidewalks, driveways and other hard surfaces. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter.



Large or Small....Scoop It All!

Pet waste not only risks the health of other animals and people, it can cause serious water quality problems.

- It doesn't matter if your pet is large or small it contributes to water pollution.
- Pet waste contains numerous bacteria, parasites, and viruses that wash into the storm drain system and straight to the ocean.
- Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly. It makes mowing a lawn a messy task.



- Pet waste is a type of pollution that can easily be reduced. All pet owners need is environmental awareness and a plastic bag.
- Picking up your pet's waste from other yards and public spaces is common courtesy and your responsibility as a pet owner— and it's the law in Lakewood. It can mean cleaner and healthier neighborhoods and less water pollution.

Remember...The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door!

