

Protecting Spokane's Water:

How Small Businesses Can Help Care for the Spokane River



Local Source Control Program



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

It is in everyone's best interest to protect the Spokane River and Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

*Restoring the health of the river and keeping the aquifer
clean go hand-in-hand with a vibrant community that supports
people and businesses too.*

How does Spokane's water get polluted?

Pollution enters the Spokane River and aquifer through rainwater that runs off roads, roofs, parking lots and other hard surfaces. It also comes from storm drains and sewers near the places where people live and work.

How does the Local Source Control program help?

Smaller sources of pollution add up to big problems in the river. Spokane Regional Health District's Local Source Control program utilizes its pollution prevention specialists to identify sources of pollution to the Spokane River. PCBs, flame retardants, dioxins, furans and metals have been found at harmful levels in fish, water and river sediment. Specialists conduct technical assistance visits at local businesses to:

- Identify possible sources of pollution.
- Provide tips and resources that help to reduce operating costs.
- Discuss ways to safely handle, reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of hazardous materials.
- Help owners understand the regulations and permits needed to safely handle hazardous materials.

In identifying possible sources of pollution, specialists will assess practices that may pollute the Spokane River and aquifer when water runs off the property or gets into the sewer system. Such practices include:

- Management of wastewater and washwater
- Waste disposal
- Spill prevention

- Outdoor maintenance practices
- Outdoor storage of products and waste
- Fueling operations

A visit from a pollution prevention specialist does not mean there is a violation or problem. The purpose is to look at a business's operations and locate sources of possible pollution.

Specialists keep visits as brief as possible and can even provide sampling assistance if needed.

What happens after the visit?

If a pollution prevention specialist finds a practice that needs improvement, they will work with owners to properly manage pollutants. Owners may also receive a return visit from a specialist to check on progress and answer any additional questions.

What can business owners and employees do to help protect the Spokane River?

- Store products and waste out of the weather, away from drains, and on a leak-proof surface with secondary containment.
- Do not push washwater or wastewater down the storm drain.

- Wash vehicles at a car wash.
- Create a spill cleanup kit that works for the chemicals used at business (such as solvents, acids and oils). Keep the kit near the area where the chemical products are used.
- Buy small quantities of hazardous materials—only the amount for use.
- Buy “green” products with the least amount of toxic ingredients.
- Sweep outdoor areas clean of dirt and debris as needed.
- Dispose of wastes properly. Do not dump liquid chemicals into sinks or the garbage.
- Make sure wastewater treatment systems (grease traps, oil-water separators and dry wells) are regularly maintained.
- Replace or coat galvanized roofs. Galvanized metal contains zinc which is very toxic to fish.
- Recycle all mercury containing batteries and fluorescent light tubes.
- Put into practice the recommendations of the pollution prevention specialist.



Resources

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

Recycling hotline
509.477.6800
spokanecountysolidwaste.org

Household Hazardous Waste
(Conditionally Exempt Small
Quantity Generators):
<http://www.spokanecounty.org/2632/Household-Hazardous-Waste>

Spokane Waste Directory

<http://spokanewastedirectory.org/>

Free Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/tree/>

CONTACTS

Dan Ferguson, PE

509.457.7108
dan.ferguson@ecy.wa.gov

Mike Lynch

360.407.7482
mike.lynch@ecy.wa.gov

Recycling information

1-800-RECYCLE
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/nav/sust.html>

E-cycle Washington
<http://www.ecyclewashington.org/>

Light Recycle Washington
<https://www.lightrecycle.org/>

Urban Waters & Local Source Control webpages:

Washington State Ecology
www.ecy.wa.gov/urbanwaters/

Spokane Regional Health District
<https://srhd.org/programs/local-source-control-pollution-prevention>

Questions?



Local Source Control program:

509.324.1560 ext. 3,
TDD 509.324.1464, or email:
pollutionprevention@srhd.org

All Spokane Regional Health District materials are available in an alternate format, upon request, by contacting the SRHD Communications team at 509.324.1681.



Washington State Department of Ecology, Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction: 509.329.3400