

Clean Water Herald

Winter 2023



A Clallam County Environmental Health Publication

A newsletter for Clallam residents, with information on water quality, septic systems, and public health.



Our Local Waters

Clallam County has more than 860 miles of rivers and streams, and over 254 miles of shoreline. During the year, Clallam receives an average of 79 inches of rainfall, much of that falling during our rainy season from November to April.

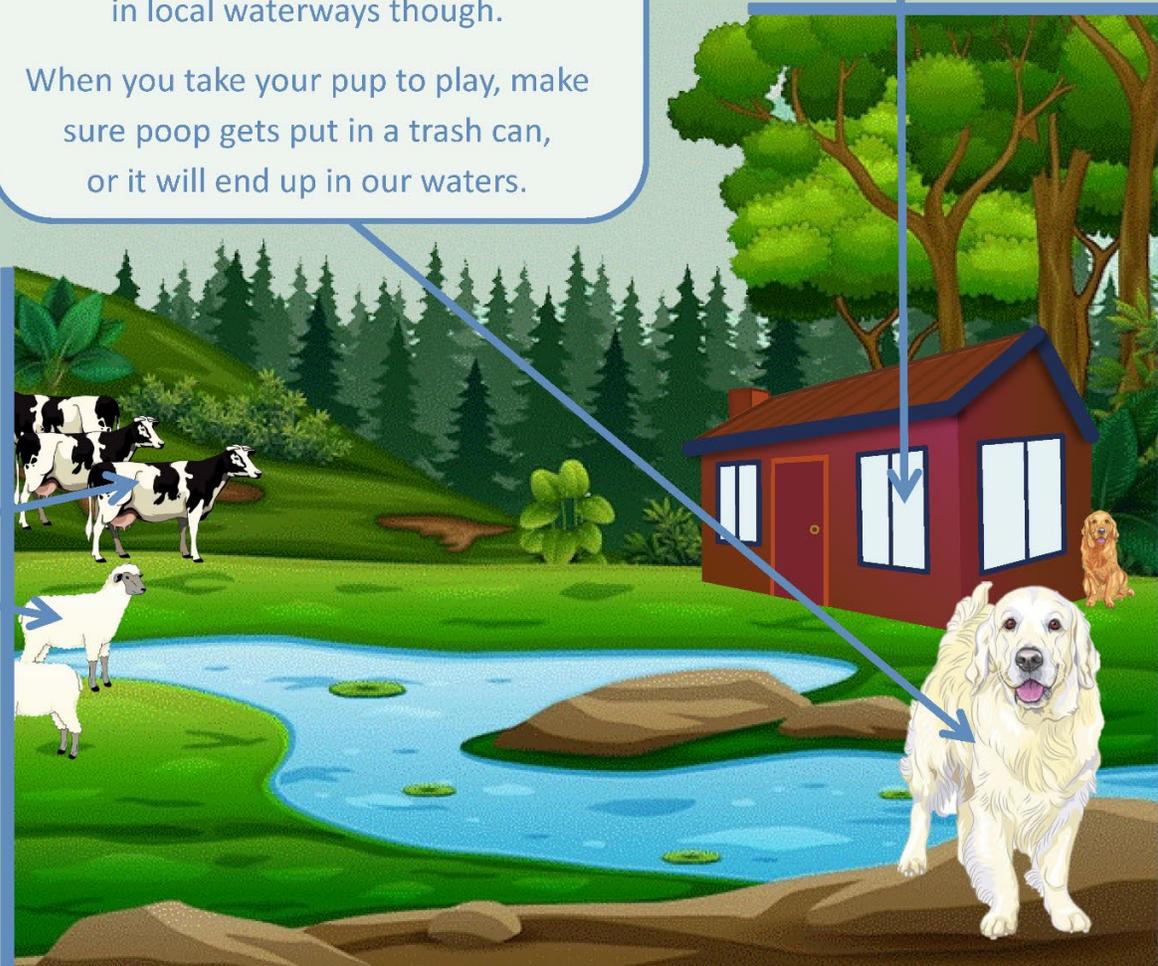
When rain falls, it picks up anything in its path - fertilizers, poop, metals. It flows through yards, pastures, and roads picking up these contaminants, then flows into ditches, creeks and streams, into rivers, and eventually ends up in the ocean, bringing anything it picked up with it.

This means what humans put into the environment can have direct impacts on the water quality in our lakes, streams, creeks, rivers, and shorelines.

This house is on septic.
A malfunctioning septic system can pollute groundwater, or bubble up sewage into your yard, contaminating nearby waters.
Regular septic inspections help you find problems early, preventing pollution and saving money on repairs in the future.

This pup loves the water!
Dog poop is a big problem for bacteria in local waterways though.
When you take your pup to play, make sure poop gets put in a trash can, or it will end up in our waters.

Livestock like cows and sheep are important to many Clallam homeowners.
Keeping them fenced away from the creek will make sure waters stay clean and safe for everyone.



Septic System Tips!

How to protect your Septic System and Sewer Lines during the Holidays

The holiday season has arrived, and you're busy preparing your feast and home for visits from friends and family, coming together to celebrate the season with you.

Your shopping list is complete and it's time to get busy cooking and hosting, but do you know how your septic system or sewer lines will be affected by the extra use?



To make sure all flows well and you don't have wastewater backing up into your home mid-party, keep the following advice in mind:

- When cooking your meals, don't pour excess grease and oils down the drain. Grease can clog your pipes, causing sewage to back up into your sink!
 - > Extra grease, oils, and leftover gravy should go into the garbage. Always use paper towels to soak up excess grease from pots and pans.
- Do not use your garbage disposal.
 - > Use screens in the sink and put food waste into the garbage.
- Make sure your guests know not to flush anything but toilet paper and human waste down the drain.
- If you're on a septic system, make sure that you and your guests spread out water intensive activities, like loads of laundry, showers, and doing the dishes.

Don't just pump!

Septic inspections are cheaper than pumping a tank. Having an inspection done before your guests arrive can give you peace of mind that your septic system can handle the increased usage during the holidays, and possibly save you money on pumping costs.

Upcoming Septic Classes and Outreach Events

We're currently working on our 2024 class schedule!

Please visit our website at www.clallamcountywa.gov/septic or look for future newsletters to see our current Septics 101 and Septics 201 class listings.

Other questions? Contact us! envirohealth@clallamcountywa.gov or (360) 417-2258

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Did you know?

Washington State requires all septic systems to be inspected on a regular basis.

Gravity systems must be inspected once every three years,

Pressurized systems must be inspected once every year.

Not sure which system you have?

A past inspection report can tell you about your system type. No report?

Check the OSS Inspection Status Map online by scanning the QR code, or give us a call and we can look it up for you!



Visit our website at: www.clallamcountywa.gov/eh

Have a question about septic or water quality you'd like answered, or topics you'd like to see covered in future newsletters? Let us know!

Email: envirohealth@clallamcountywa.gov

Call: (360) 417-2258