Get Rid of Your Yard Waste the Right Way!

The leaves are dropping from the trees and you’re thinking about breaking out your trusty rake to tackle some yard clean-up. But what will you do with the pile of yard waste left behind after all of your hard work is done? It may not seem intuitive, but yard waste is pollution. You are required to dispose of it properly. Dumping it in the road, ditch, creek or lake is not a water-friendly option, and you could end up with a fine.

Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste piled near ditches or roads can:

• Plug storm drains and culverts, causing flooding and increasing maintenance costs.
• Add excess nutrients and other pollutants to the water, harming water quality and wildlife.
• Spread invasive plants, harming native vegetation and habitat.

Your best choices for yard waste disposal:

• Use FoodPlus! curbside service from Sanitary Service Co. www.ssc-inc.com or (360)734-3490
• Take it to RDS Recycling and Disposal Services: www.rdsdisposal.com or (360)384-8011
• Compost at home. Learn more from WSU Whatcom County Extension: https://extension.wsu.eduwhatcom/ or (360)778-5811

EVALUATE
YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE

There’s VALU in Evaluation!

Did you know that septic system evaluations are required every 1 or 3 years, depending on the type you have? Regular evaluations help identify problems now that may save you lots of money later.

We can help reduce the cost of your evaluation!

Take advantage of our Septic Maintenance Rebate Program, and you could get up to $200 back!*  

www.whatcomcounty.us/septic

* You and your property must meet certain qualifications and you must complete a free training. See website or call Kate Rice at (360)778-6302 for more info.

TAKE THE SCOOP THE POOP PLEDGE, GET A FREE TAGALONG CLIP!
Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it.

www.whatcomcounty.us/scooppoop
Learn more about the Lake Whatcom watershed! Stay Connected!
Visit www.lakewhatcom.whatcomcounty.org. Sign up for the Lake Whatcom e-newsletter to receive updates on events, volunteer opportunities, project updates and more. Learn more about lake threats, ways to get involved, and how local government is working together to protect the lake.

Welcome to the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility

What is stormwater?
Stormwater is water from rain or snowmelt that flows across the landscape to the nearest ditch, storm drain, or stream. Stormwater picks up pollutants from the surfaces it flows over and carries them downstream into Lake Whatcom.

What is a stormwater utility and why do we need it?
Whatcom County is required to manage stormwater in the Lake Whatcom watershed and reduce the amount of stormwater pollution entering the lake. The purpose of the new Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility (LWSU) is to provide additional funding for the county’s efforts to clean up and protect Lake Whatcom water quality. Existing funding sources were not sufficient to meet current and future Lake Whatcom program needs in order to comply with federal Clean Water Act requirements. In 2020, 50 percent of the LWSU annual fee was included as a line item on your property tax. Starting in 2021, the full annual fee will be included in your statement.

What will the fees be used for?
Fees collected through the LWSU will be used by the county to supplement the following program areas: capital project construction, maintenance and small works, outreach and education, homeowner incentives/residential retrofits, water quality monitoring, and administrative costs associated with managing the stormwater utility. The utility will provide approximately 25% of the county’s funding for Lake Whatcom management programs. The remainder will continue to come from other county-wide generated sources and grants. Example program activities to be funded by the LWSU include:

- Yard and pet waste disposal education
- Watershed Watchers volunteer program development
- Subwatershed Master Planning for project identification and prioritization
- Response to flooding/drainage/water quality/pollution reports
- Septic system maintenance rebates, and much more

For more information, visit: http://whatcomcounty.us/2830
Or call the Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater Division at (360) 778-6210.