



Welcome to the Bellingham Water School home edition!

Use these worksheets, videos, and facts to learn about Bellingham's water systems. Each one of these 5 mini-lessons take about 30-minutes to one hour and should be completed in order. For any questions about Bellingham Water School, Bellingham's three water systems (stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater), or if you want to share about your learning experience, contact us at waterschool@cob.org

Fun Fact: As stormwater moves across impervious surfaces, it can pick up pollution such as trash, bacteria and viruses from pet waste, oil and heavy metals from cars, and chemicals that people use to kill plants and insects, together this pollution in stormwater is called non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution is the overall largest source of pollution in the Salish Sea. The best way we can keep this pollution out of our water is to prevent it in the first place.

Lesson 5: Take Action—Help Keep Bellingham's Water Clean

Select one action project, create your own action project, or choose multiple actions you and your family can take to help keep the watersheds and water in Bellingham healthy and clean. Suggestions of actions you can take are on page 2.



Getting around town on your bike or a bus helps reduce the amount of oil and heavy metals in our local waterways including our drinking water source, Lake Whatcom.



Take Action– Help Keep Bellingham’s Water Clean!

It doesn’t matter where you live, you are always in a watershed! In Bellingham, it is not only important to keep the Lake Whatcom watershed healthy to protect our drinking water, we want to keep all our bodies of water clean and healthy to protect humans, pets and wildlife.

You are challenged to complete one or more activity to keep your watershed healthy and protect your water. Here are some ideas:

- **Have a dog at home?** Make the We Scoop Pledge (<https://www.cob.org/services/environment/stormwater/Pages/scoop-poop-promise.aspx>) Picking up your dog’s poop on every walk and on a regular basis in your yard keeps bacteria and viruses from contaminating our water.
- **Wash your family’s car while keeping soap out of the creeks.** Take your family car to a commercial carwash where the water is recycled and waste water is sent to the wastewater plant for treatment. If you can’t go to a car wash, wash your car on your lawn where soapy water will soak into the ground. Learn more about car washing and walk with your family about how you want to wash your car next time by visiting: <https://www.cob.org/services/environment/stormwater/Pages/cars.aspx>
- **Plan your next outing to be a car-free outing.** Cars can leak oil, leave heavy metals on the roadway, and emit carbon dioxide. Reducing the amount of trips taken in a car will help keep our water clean. Plan your next trip by looking at the [City of Bellingham Bike Route](#) or the [Whatcom Transportation Authority bus route](#).
- **Take a walk and pick up litter.** Put on gardening gloves or latex gloves, grab a bag, and pick up litter as you walk. Make sure you are always in a safe place (don’t go into the road) while picking up litter and that the litter you are picking up is safe (nothing sharp). Keep an eye out for plastic, plastic doesn't biodegrade, therefore it will stay in the environment or a really long time.

