



Always Pick Up Your Pet's Waste!

Did you know that dog poop is toxic to the health of waterways?

Pet waste contains bacteria, medications, and nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. When dog poop isn't picked up, these pollutants are carried by rain through stormwater sewers into our rivers.

The EPA estimates that two or three days' worth of droppings from 100 dogs in a watershed can contribute enough bacteria to impact the surrounding 20 miles and make them unsafe for fishing and swimming.

SOLUTIONS

1. **Put it in a bag and throw it in the trash.** While pet waste can create problems at landfills or incinerators, it is still a better option than leaving it in your yard.
2. **Flush it down the toilet** where it will be treated before being released.
3. **Dig a hole or trench** that is about 5 inches deep and away from vegetable gardens and any lake, stream, ditch, or well. Microorganisms in the top layer of the soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to fertilize nearby plants.
4. **Use an underground pet waste digester.** The digester works like a small septic tank by using environment-friendly enzymes and bacteria to turn dog waste into a liquid that is absorbed into the ground.
5. If you are away from home, **look for a pet waste station** where you can often find baggies and a disposal bin.

Remember: Whether it's a sidewalk, a park, or your yard, it's part of the watershed. **Respect our waters and pick up pet waste!**