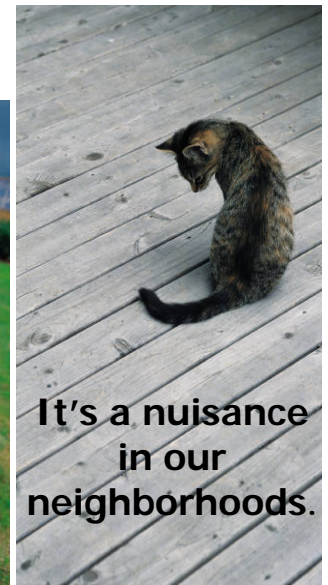


Why Manage Pet Waste?

Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick.



It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children.



It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods.

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, marine and ground waters clean.

Dispose of Pet Waste by:

Flushing it Down the Toilet

The water from your toilet goes to a septic system or sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches a lake or stream. To prevent plumbing problems, don't try to flush debris such as rocks, sticks or cat litter. Cat litter should be put in a securely closed bag in the trash.

Putting it in the Trash

Putting pet waste in the trash is not always the best solution. Waste taken to landfill or incinerator can still cause pollution problems.

Digesting It

If you don't want to put your dog's poop in the trash, or if you like the idea of high-tech waste disposal, you may want to acquire a waste digester system. These small, in-ground systems work the same way septic systems do: They liquefy any dog poop deposited there and drain the liquid into the surrounding soil.

Burying it in the Yard

Dig a hole or trench that is about 5 inches deep away from vegetable gardens and from any lake, stream, ditch or well. Microorganisms in the top layer of soil will break down the waste and release nutrients to fertilize nearby plants.

Be Cautious

Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies to prevent disease. Don't add pet waste to your compost pile. The pile won't get hot enough to kill disease organisms in pet waste.

Information from the Puget Sound Action Team, House-training for Dummies and the WI Department of Natural Resources.