

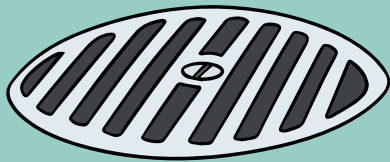
# BAY AWARE

## Preventing stormwater pollution, one storm drain at a time

Here on the south coast, water is a treasured resource: our culture, identity, recreation, economy, lives, and livelihoods depend on water. But what we do on land has a huge impact on the quality of our rivers, bay, and ocean. And one of the biggest threats on the coast is stormwater.

When rain falls on driveways, lawns, streets, sidewalks, rooftops, and roads, it picks up everything in its path.

This stormwater then enters a storm drain or catch basin...

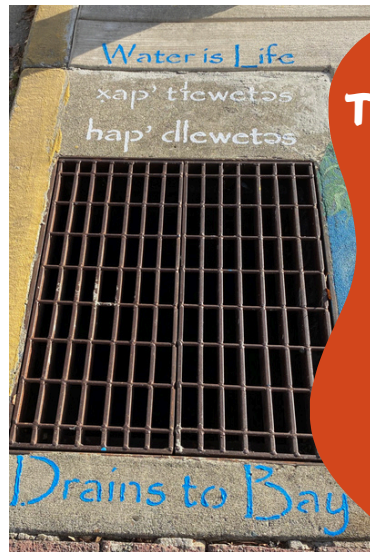


... and empties directly into the waterbodies that we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. There is no filter.



## Solutions through Art

Public art is a great way to communicate messages and inspire change. Our stencils feature five animals that are directly impacted by stormwater pollution (lamprey, salmon, seal, crab, and heron), along with these messages: “Drains to Bay,” “no filter,” and “Water is Life” in hanis and miluk, two of the native indigenous languages spoken along our coastline.



### Take Action!

- 1 Visit storm drain murals and stencils in downtown Coos Bay, Empire, and North Bend. We hope to expand to neighboring cities soon!
- 2 Follow guidelines on the back side of this handout to improve water health!



Community Coalition of Empire

Funding through Trust Management Services LLC

# BAY AWARE

## Steps to keep our bay pollution-free

### HOME CONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENT

Follow **Best Management Practices** for erosion control during home construction to avoid erosion on/off-site, added sediment in water, and contaminated runoff from construction materials:

- Minimize land disturbance
- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris
- Install perimeter control [silt fences, straw wattles, gravel bags, etc.]
- Stabilize disturbed areas [mulch, reseed, etc.]
- Set up a concrete washout area
- Have good housekeeping and material management practices on the site
- Train and educate your crew about best practices
- Conduct routine inspections of your site and best management devices to ensure they are in good working order
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar
- Look at your runoff control: install downspouts, reduce steep slopes, do not concentrate flows, and install permanent erosion control [rock, vegetation, pavement, etc.] when done with construction

### YARD AND GARDEN

- Reduce pavement and increase vegetated areas
  - Consider a rain garden or bioswale to filter runoff from your roof and/or yard
  - Landscape with native plants that are drought-tolerant, pest-resistant, require less maintenance, prevent erosion, and create habitat for wildlife
  - Want to do even more? Boost pollinator populations by replacing some or all of your lawn with native plants!
- Limit/eliminate use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors
- Properly dispose of excess paints or donate locally
- Use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible, minimizing use of hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners
- Clean up any spills immediately

### VEHICLES AND GARAGE

- Check your car, boat, and equipment for leaks and clean up spills immediately with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand [don't rinse spills into storm drain]
- Use phosphate-free soap or skip it entirely [most soaps damage fish gills and eggs]
- Wash car on gravel or grass so runoff goes into the ground instead of a storm drain
- Take your car to a commercial car wash so the runoff goes through a wastewater treatment plant, which removes at least some pollutants

### AROUND TOWN

- Dispose of trash and cigarettes in bins
- Keep plastic out of waste stream
- Pick up pet waste and avoid feeding waterfowl to reduce bacteria and algae growth in waterbodies [leads to depleted oxygen levels]
- Visit storm drain murals and stencils in cities supporting public art/awareness
- Support sustainability-minded businesses, such as “ocean-friendly restaurants”

### MORE INFO & IDEAS

- Contact the Coos Watershed Association: [www.cooswatershed.org](http://www.cooswatershed.org) or [541] 888-5922
- Visit [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

