

Salish Sea Watersheds Challenge

Be a Salish Sea Steward!

*Discuss actions you AND your family will DO to keep our waters clean!
Use the table on the back of this sheet to tally each time you DO your action.*

Scoop the Poop! Rain washes pet and livestock poop down storm drains and into our waters. Poo-lution can make people and animals sick and cause algal blooms.

- Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it!** I will carry bags to clean up my dog's poop when on walks.
- I will encourage my cat to use a litter box, scoop the poop, bag it, and trash it.
- I will keep livestock away from creeks and ditches, scoop their poop and cover the manure pile to keep rain out.
- I will keep wildlife wild by **not** providing easy access to food and shelter which can cause populations to grow too large. Always secure garbage cans, keep pet food inside, put chickens in the coop at night, and block holes to attics or crawl spaces.

Be Septic Smart! We will maintain our septic system. Failing systems can cause property damage, cost you lots of money to fix, and cause water pollution that can make people sick.

- Evaluate before it's too late!** We will have our septic system evaluated every 1 or 3 years (depending on the system). Evaluations help discover small fixes that can prevent large problems in the future. Contact Whatcom County Health Department for more information: www.whatcomcounty.us/septic or (360) 778-6000
- Pump the Tank!** A professional will pump the tank when solids are 1/3 of tank volume.
- Don't Strain Your Drain!** We will spread out laundry and dishwasher loads to avoid overloading the system. Solids need time to settle in the tank. Too much water in a short time can wash them into the drain field, which can cause it to fail.

On the Water!

- We will make sure the valve on the boat's holding tank is kept in the closed position.
- We will use the pumpouts at the marina and never dump the holding tank into the water.

Pounding the Pavement!

- Only rain in storm drains! I will not dump toxics down drains or on the ground.
- We will leave buffers of native vegetation at the base of hills and shorelines. We will position gutters so to drain onto grass or garden beds and use porous materials on driveways and walkways like paving stones, sand or gravel.

In the city or on the farm - Let's do this together!



Conserve Energy & Reduce My Carbon Footprint!

- I will ride a bike, walk, or take public transportation instead of driving.
- I will turn off lights, appliances, and computers when not in use and put high energy-using items like water heaters on timers.
- We will buy local products to support our local farmers and reduce transportation.
- We will plant trees, vegetation, and cover crops.
- I will choose a low carbon diet.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

- Reduce!** Find plastic free and reusable alternatives to plastics you use. Minimize purchase of products with plastic packaging, avoid single use plastics and carry a reusable bottle.
- Reuse!** Get creative and find ways to give plastic items a second life.
- Recycle!** When you use plastic items make sure to clean and properly recycle them.



Gardensalishsea.org

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