



Working together to enhance water quality and aquatic habitats and to preserve a water resource for future generations.

How You Can Help

Report emergency situations. A sudden threat to human health or the environment is an environmental emergency. Examples include a spill of raw sewage, chemical spill or radioactive discharge. Because of the potential for the presence of hazardous gases and other serious threats, do not attempt to document an environmental emergency. Immediately report the location of the event to 9-1-1.

Report brown, sediment-laden water. Wherever land clearing activities are taking place, there is a potential for erosion. Erosion clogs streams and suffocates fish. If you see brown, sediment-laden water entering a ditch or stream, it should be reported to Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management (425-388-6481).

Additional Contacts

Snohomish Health District
Environmental Health Division
Wastewater Program (septic system problems)
425-339-5250

Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources
(water quality concerns involving logging)
360-856-3500



Snohomish County
Public Works
Surface Water Management
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201

REPORTING WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS



Thanks for helping keep my neighborhood clean!

Your observations can help us investigate pollution of surface waters. See inside for ways you can help us respond to pollution when it is occurring.

*“Filthy water cannot be washed”
(West African Proverb)*

Q What should I report?

Report any of the following conditions that you see in the ditch, storm drain system, wetland area or any water body in Snohomish County. In general, report any condition or any spill that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

Common examples include:

- Vehicle fluids,
- Excessive dirt and gravel,
- Detergent/solvent/degreaser,
- Concrete or mortar,
- Paint,
- Pesticides or fertilizers,
- Pet waste,
- Erosion,
- Manure problems, or
- Excessive algae growth.

Please report . . .



spills and conditions that affect stormwater quality



Illegal dumping of hazardous chemicals and debris impacts surface water and groundwater and should be reported.

Q How do I report it?

If the situation is a severe threat to human health or the environment, call **9-1-1**; otherwise call our Hotline (**425-388-6481**), or use our online form (www.snoco.org, type "water quality complaint" in the search box).

Q What information should I provide?

- What is the site location? Please be specific; include address, tax parcel number, landmarks, etc.
- When did the spill or dumping occur? (approximate date and time)
- Is the discharge in or near a creek or water body?
- Is the discharge continuous or was it a spill?
- Does the discharge exhibit any color or odor?
- Do you have photographs?
- Do you know what the source is or who is responsible?
- Are there any other witnesses?

Q How will this be investigated?

Snohomish County staff will conduct a site inspection within 72 hours or sooner if the situation is an emergency.

The following are normal conditions that are not harmful to the environment.



Iron Oxide Deposits create an "orange goo" that results from dissolved iron in the water reacting with oxygen in the air, and consequent iron-consuming bacteria colonization.



Foam may be formed by naturally occurring dissolved organic compounds in water. A small amount of foam is normal; however, large amounts of suds may result from other sources and should be reported.



Organic Sheen has a rainbow appearance and usually results from decomposing organic matter. It is easily identified by its ability to break up on the water surface.



Tannins and Lignin are natural compounds in the leaves which can stain water to a deep brown (tea-like) color.