



# Salish Sea Watersheds Challenge



PLEASE POST THIS IN YOUR HOME, RECORD YOUR ACTIONS

*With your family, decide what actions you will all DO to keep our waters clean for safe recreation and shellfish harvest. Fill in the boxes, post and record how many times you take action with marks next to your action item. After a month, see if you are meeting your CHALLENGE!*

**Scoop the Poop! Pet and livestock waste pollutes water and is a threat to human health, because it contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites. It can also cause algae blooms and contaminate shellfish beds.**

- Scoop it! Bag it! Trash it! I'll carry a bag and clean up after my pet on the street and in the yard. I'll put it in a plastic bag in the trash.
- Encourage my cat to use a litter box, scoop the poop, bag it, and empty into the trash.
- Keep livestock away from creeks and stop feeding ducks and geese.

**Septic Sense! When systems fail, property damage and water contamination can occur. Water pooling in the yard, foul odors, stained soils near the drainfield, and backed up drains in your home are indications of system failure.**

- Keep my septic system in top working order by having it inspected regularly (every 3 years for gravity systems or every year for alternative systems to meet Whatcom County requirements) and get my tank pumped when needed.
- Spread out laundry and dishwasher loads throughout the week to prevent overloading my septic system, which can cause solid materials to pass into the drainfield.

**On the Water!**

- Make sure the valve on the boat's holding tank is kept in the closed position.
- Never dump my holding tank into the water, always use the pumpouts provided at the marina.

**Pounding the Pavement!**

- Never dump toxic materials down storm drains or on the ground.
- Use spaced paving stones, bricks, sand or gravel in my driveway and walkways.
- Position gutters so that they drain rainwater onto grass or garden beds and away from impervious surfaces.
- Leave buffers of native vegetation at the base of hills and along the water's edge.
- Minimize impervious surfaces when remodeling or building. I'll favor a tall house with a small footprint.

**Conserve Energy, Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions!**

- Ride a bike or walk instead of driving.
- Turn off lights, appliances, computers .
- Put high energy-using items like water heaters on timers.
- Buy local
- Use earth friendly soaps