

NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON FRESHWATER

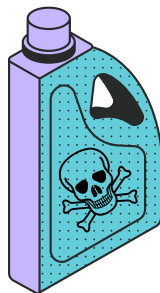
RUN OFF!

In a natural watershed that hasn't been changed by humans, most of the water that falls as rain is absorbed by trees or soaks into the ground. Only about 10% runs over the surface of the ground and enters into a stream or river. But in an urban (city) watershed more than half (~55%) of the water that falls as rain enters into our streams or rivers, usually through pipes that drain the water away from our roads and roofs. This means that less water soaks into the ground for nearby trees and shrubs and to feed our streams during dryer periods. For some streams (especially in coastal BC) that means there is not enough water during the summer drought, and the creek runs dry for a period. It also means that when it rains our creeks get a lot more water in a very short period of time - sometimes more water than the stream or river is able to deal with! This can cause fish or other animals to be carried away, or chunks of streambanks to be washed away by the heavy waters.



POLLUTANTS

In many watersheds, rainwater is carried away from roads and roofs into a series of pipes called our stormwater system. Many people think these storm drains and catchbasins take the water away through our sewer system, but the water that goes down these drains does not get cleaned like our sewer water does; in fact it goes to the nearest stream, river or wetland! This means that any pollution on our roads (like dust from tires, oil or gas from our automobile engines, road salts and gravel) or litter in our streets, will get washed right into our streams. This kind of pollution is hard to deal with because it comes from lots of places instead of just one place.

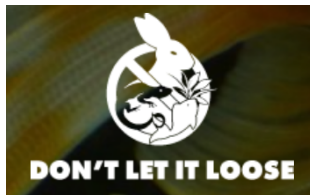


INVASIVE SPECIES

Humans and communities are connected all across the planet. People, and the things we use, are brought from one place to another by ships, planes, trucks and trains. Sometimes we take plants and animals with us, whether by accident (a stowaway on a ship or truck) or on purpose (releasing fish from your fish tank or pond into the local stream or lake because you can't care for them anymore) and they get into our local ecosystems. In many of our freshwater ecosystems there are fish, other animals (amphibians, insects, birds) and plants that have become invaders, crowding out and competing with the plants and animals native to the area. This causes a loss of biodiversity, especially in places with rare or unique species.



PLANTS: SEARCH FOR AN INVASIVE SPECIES CLICK HERE



DONT LET YOUR PETS LOOSE! CHECK OUT ISC INFORMATION ON THIS



Invasive Species Centre

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