



# Do the right thing and *always* pick it up!



## It's Your Responsibility as a Dog Owner

When you walk your dog, make sure to carry a plastic bag with you so that you can pick up the waste and dispose of it in a trash can (and never in a storm drain).

Dog waste carries high levels of harmful E. coli bacteria and other pathogens. When dog waste is left on the ground, the bacteria and pathogens can wash into storm drains and enter local waterways, which impacts recreational opportunities, like swimming, fishing, and boating.

### It's a Really Big Deal

Dogs produce a lot of waste, which over time, can pose a health threat to swimmers, wildlife, and water quality.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that two or three days' worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it to swimming and shell fishing.

Fecal waste-contaminated water can cause people to have serious health problems.

Deliberately leaving pet waste on the ground is not only unpleasant and unhealthy, it's often punishable by fines.

**Picking up after your dog is the right thing to do. It reduces the spread of disease and helps protect our local water resources.**

*Learn about steps we're taking to help prevent stormwater pollution in the community at [YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)*

