



## Picking Up After Your Pet Will Help Protect the Quality of Our Water

Pick up after your pet

- When walking your dog, always carry a pooper scooper or plastic bag with you to pick up your pet's waste. Pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance that can wash into gutters and storm drains carrying dangerous diseases into our creeks, rivers and lakes.
- Properly dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet, placing it in the trash or composting the waste by burying it.
- Plastic grocery and vegetable bags work well. Place your hand in the bag, pick up the waste, then turn the bag inside out. Commercial "scoopers" can also be purchased to make proper disposal of pet waste even easier. Check pet stores and catalogs. Dogs can be trained to "take care of business" at the beginning of a walk so you can dispose of the waste right away.



Source:  
City of Los Angeles Storm Water Program  
<http://www.lacity.org/SAN/wpd/WPD/education/bmps/petwaste.htm>

Pet owners have many different ways of cleaning up after their pets at home. Here are a few that are water friendly:

- Smaller quantities of pet waste can be left to decompose slowly on permeable surfaces.
- Larger amounts should be scooped and placed in the trash. One method suggested for this is to place a plastic bag in a 5-gallon trash can with a lid. When you pick up dog droppings in your yard, put them in that trash can, then cover them with a sprinkling of powdered lime (available at building supply stores) and close the lid.
- Each time you clean up the yard and add droppings to the container, add more lime. When the container is full, tie the bag closed and put it in your regular trash container. A more innovative method, which not only disposes of pet waste but also creates fertilizer, is to install a disposal system, commercially available through pet owners' and gardening catalogs. These systems use bacterial and enzymatic cultures which reduce the waste to a liquid, which is then absorbed into the soil.

For more information visit:

[www.swmpc.org/water.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/water.asp)