

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMWATER?

“The future of our water supply will look nothing like the past. We are all connected through our stormwater...”

we all live downstream.”



**Benton
County**
OREGON

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is any precipitation that collects in a natural or constructed storage or moves through a drainage system following a storm event. Not all rain that falls is absorbed by lawns and natural areas. Rain and melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground flows overland into gutters, ditches, and streams – this is stormwater runoff. During construction of new roads, neighborhoods, and buildings, native vegetation and ground cover are removed and the exposed soil can be transported by stormwater runoff.

After construction activities, impervious areas such as roads, roof tops, parking areas, and sidewalks prevent infiltration of moisture from rain and snowfall, thus increasing stormwater runoff.

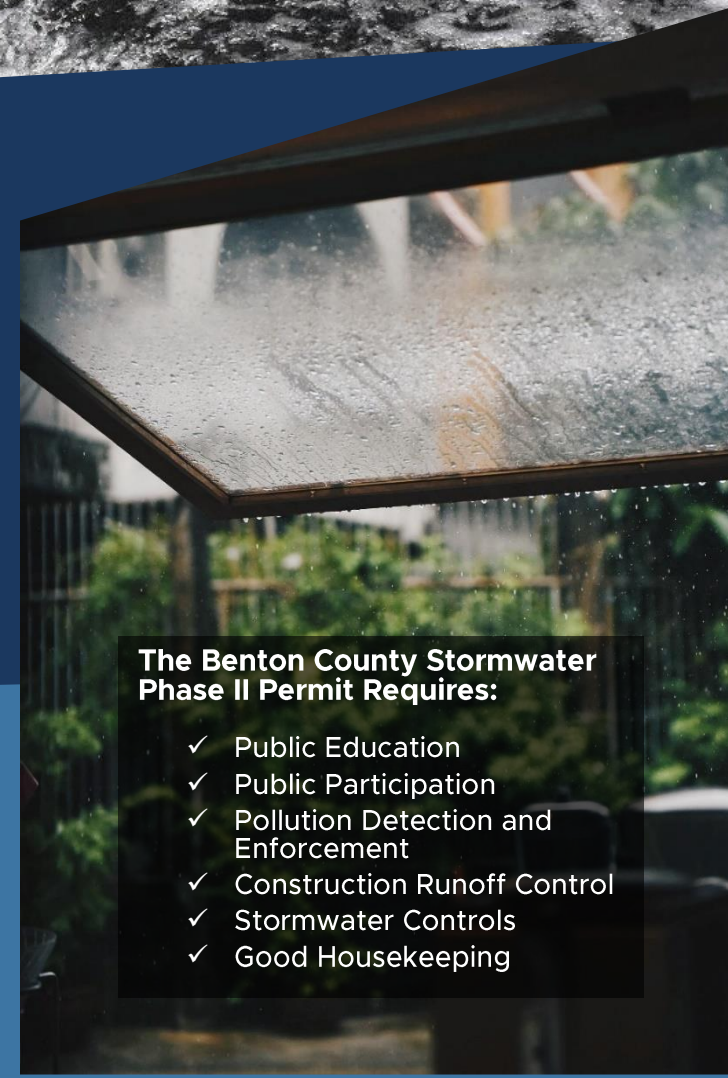
This runoff can be too much for the existing natural drainage systems to handle.

Pollutants and sediment often flow into storm sewers and lined channels. The stormwater runoff is then discharged to downstream waters such as streams, reservoirs, lakes, and wetlands.

WHY IS IT REGULATED?

Stormwater regulations are part of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality places responsibility for stormwater management on counties and cities. Benton County has been issued a Stormwater Phase II Permit and must comply with the conditions of the permit. The County is required by law to implement a stormwater quality program.

Stormwater from one area often becomes drinking water for another area. Fish, wildlife, and people are affected by poor water quality or by increased flows from stormwater.



The Benton County Stormwater Phase II Permit Requires:

- ✓ Public Education
- ✓ Public Participation
- ✓ Pollution Detection and Enforcement
- ✓ Construction Runoff Control
- ✓ Stormwater Controls
- ✓ Good Housekeeping

Benton County is working to implement a Stormwater Management Plan.

Everyone who lives, visits, or recreates in Benton County has a part in improving stormwater quality.

It's about improving water quality... **And you can help!**



Benton County will be completing many Stormwater Rules from now through 2023.

Want to get involved? Scan or click the QR code on this page or search "Benton County stormwater" in your preferred search browser.

Contact Gordon Kurtz if you wish to be placed on the Benton County Stormwater Mailing List.

541-766-6006

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✓ Clean up vehicle spills.
- ✓ Throw pet waste in the trash.
- ✓ Limit the amount of impervious surface on your property.
- ✓ Use porous paving surfaces such as wood decking, open-celled bricks, or concrete pavers that allow water to soak into the ground.
- ✓ Drain roof gutters away from the foundation, onto grass or toward landscaping.
- ✓ Allow thick vegetation or "buffer strips" to slow runoff and soak up pollutants.
- ✓ Plant drought tolerant or native species when you can.
- ✓ Aerate and avoid over-fertilizing lawns.
- ✓ Sweep up litter and debris from driveways instead of hosing debris into gutter and/or storm drains.
- ✓ Call your contract waste management company for disposal of household chemicals such as paint or oil.

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