

Are you prepared to prevent flooding?

Before heavy rains and freezing weather, you can take steps to prevent flooding:



Clear leaves from gutters and storm drains

Heavy rain may carry debris that can clog storm drains and cause flooding:

- Put leaves in your yard debris bin, compost pile or bring them to a [free drop off event](#).
- Leave leaves on garden areas or mulch them with your lawnmower for use in planting beds.
- Clear leaves, debris and garbage from streets and storm drains. If water is more than a few inches deep, call Clean Water Services at 503-547-8100.
- Clear your gutters and downspouts.



Protect your pipes

Frozen water expands, cracking pipes and causing breaks when pipes thaw. Protect your pipes to keep them from freezing:

- Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets.
- Cover or wrap outside faucets and foundation vents.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Turn off and drain irrigation systems.



Don't pour fats, oils or grease down the drain

Fats, oils and grease can cause problems in your home and in sewers if poured down the drain.

Request a FREE “Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain Kit” from Clean Water Services by calling 503-681-3678. The pan scraper, plastic lid and easy-to-follow instructions will help you dispose of fats, oils and grease.



Locate sandbag self-serve stations

Know where [self-serve sand stations](#) are located throughout Washington County. If you need to visit one, call ahead to confirm hours of operation and availability of sand and bags.

Sand provided at Washington County self-serve stations should only be used for flood prevention. Remember to bring your own shovel.

Watch our [September Talkin' Water presentation on emergency preparedness](#) or our [October Talkin' Water on cold weather preparedness](#) for more information on being prepared this winter.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)



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