

# Home Tips for Healthy Streams

## If you live near a stream...

- 1** Keep streams shaded. Trees and bushes keep the water cool for fish and help stabilize the banks. Do not remove streamside vegetation within 15 m of the stream.
- 2** Keep litter and trash out of streams. Besides being unsightly, trash will collect into debris jams and block water flow. Limit in-stream cleanup activity to the summer months.
- 3** Keep garden waste out of streams. Branches, grass clippings and weeds rot and reduce the amount of oxygen in the water.
- 4** Keep pets away from streams. Animal waste is polluting. Pets entering streams can erode streambanks and cause siltation; their activity also disturbs wildlife and salmon living in streams.

- 5** Landscape with care. Despite good intentions, changes you make in and around streams may destroy spawning beds and fish habitat, or block fish migration. Do not build ponds, dams or bridges without guidance and approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Environment.

## Car and Driveway Tips

Oil, antifreeze and contaminants from car exhaust will kill fish when washed off roads into storm drains and streams.

- 1** Fix oil and transmission leaks. Place a drip tray under the car. Never dispose of used oils and antifreeze into gutters or storm drains, all of which empty into streams. Recycle used oil and antifreeze.
- 2** Wash cars with a minimum of detergent. Where possible, wash on gravel or lawns to avoid runoff entering storm drains. Never dump leftover detergents or cleaning compounds into gutters or storm drains.
- 3** Sweep your walks and driveways. Hosing washes litter and pollutants into storm drains and streams.
- 4** Avoid paving your lot. Consider using porous asphalts, paving stones or bricks to let water seep through driveways and walks.
- 5** During construction projects, keep wet concrete from storm drains and streams. It is very toxic to fish and other wildlife.

## The Solution

Everyone can take part in wise stream stewardship. Using these tips will help keep our streams healthy and beautiful now and for the future.

For more information, contact:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (604) 666-6614
- B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (604) 582-5200
- BC Recycling Hotline  
In the Lower Mainland: 732-9253  
Toll-free: 1-800-667-4321

