



SAINT CHARLES
MISSOURI

Frequently Asked Questions

Proper Pet Waste Disposal

Why should I pick up pet waste on my own property?

The pathogens in pet waste are harmful to the health of humans, animals and the environment. Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates area creeks, rivers and lakes.

How should I dispose of pet waste?

Scoop the feces, bag it and place it in the garbage.

Can I put pet waste in the trash?

Yes, this is the preferred disposal method. By placing pet waste in the trash, it prevents a source of pollution in our creeks, rivers and lakes. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste and cat litter.

Can I bury or compost pet waste?

Compost and burial does not kill the hazardous pathogens that can be found in pet waste. Additionally, most residential compost piles will not reach temperatures sufficient to kill many of these hazardous pathogens. For instance, to kill E.coli and Salmonella waste has to be exposed to 140-degree temperatures over an extended period of time.

Pet waste is biodegradable, right?

Pet waste does decompose under natural conditions, but the harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites remain even after the waste pile seems to have disappeared. When pet waste is washed into the storm sewer system and eventually area creeks, rivers and lakes, it decomposes by utilizing oxygen in the water and then releases harmful ammonia. Under those conditions, fish and aquatic life can be killed. Pet waste also includes unabsorbed nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth.

The stormwater in my neighborhood goes into a detention pond. Isn't the water treated there?

No. Pet feces is raw sewage. Stormwater detention ponds are not designed to treat the pathogens in raw sewage. Stormwater is not treated at a sewage treatment plant. Stormwater from these ponds releases into pipes and ditches that discharge directly into area creeks, rivers and lakes. Detention ponds do help clean stormwater as sediments and pollutants settle out; however, pathogens that remain suspended are discharged directly into creeks, rivers and lakes without further treatment.