

THANK YOU!



Thank you for taking the time to complete this stormwater survey. Below are some answers we were looking for along with some explanations:

1. Are you a resident or business owner of Black Diamond?

- Yes
- No

This survey is only open for residents/businesses in Black Diamond

2. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 or older
- Prefer not to answer

Demographics only

3. Rate your perception of the overall quality of the creeks and lakes in Black Diamond.

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Neutral
- Clean
- Very Clean

Interested in knowing overall perception

4. True or false: You have seen stormwater educational articles/flyers/other educational materials from the City of Black Diamond in City newsletters and/or at City offices.

- True
- False
- Not sure

Hopefully you have seen educational materials and read through them

5. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion regarding the stormwater educational articles (check all that apply):

- They are good
- They are informative
- They have inspired me to make changes to habits in regards to stormwater
- The information is inaccurate
- The terminology used is confusing
- I see them but choose not to read them
- I have read them but they do not apply to me
- I have never seen them

We hope these educational materials are beneficial to those who read them

6. “Waters of the state” of Washington include (check all that apply):

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Ponds
- Streams/creeks
- Inland waters
- Underground water
- Salt waters
- Estuaries
- Private goldfish ponds
- Tidal flats
- Swimming pools
- Beaches and lands adjoining the seacoast of the state
- Sanitary sewers
- Stormwater sewers
- None of the above

Waters of the state are everywhere. They include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams/creeks, inland waters, underground water, salt waters, estuaries, tidal flats, and beaches and lands adjoining the seacoast of the state.

Goldfish ponds, swimming pools, sanitary sewers, and stormwater sewers are not waters of the state, but these could potentially contaminate waters of the state.

7. True or false: The City of Black Diamond is only authorized to discharge stormwater to “waters of the state” through a permit issued by the State of Washington Department of Ecology:

- True
- False
- Not sure

This is true. The City has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit through the Department of Ecology (DOE). The Permit has a variety of requirements that must be completed by given deadlines. To see this permit and other information, visit the [DOE website](#))

8. True or false: Each and every resident and business in the City of Black Diamond has an impact on stormwater:

- True
- False
- Not sure

This is true. Your home had to be built at some time. Before it was there, rainfall hit undisturbed ground. Now rainfall goes onto roofs and driveways and has to go somewhere else. If you own a car, it can leave dirt and fluids on the roadway as you drive down City streets. We all have an impact.

9. What happens to stormwater runoff within the City of Black Diamond?

- Goes to a stormwater treatment facility and then into the nearest body of water
- Goes into the nearest body of water with minimal or no treatment
- Is routed to the sanitary sewer system and is treated at a sewer treatment plant
- Not sure

Stormwater runoff goes into the nearest body of water with minimal or no treatment. There are some areas in the City where the water infiltrates into the ground or goes to a detention or retention facility for some treatment, but stormwater is typically untreated.

Stormwater does not go into the sanitary sewer system here in Black Diamond. There are what are called “combined sewers” in larger cities like Seattle, but we do not have those here.

10. True or false: Water from my hose is safe for fish:

- True
- False
- Not sure

This is actually false. This is almost a trick question as chlorine in your tap water is not good for fish as it can cause respiratory failure, depending on the concentration. Untreated tap water that gets into the stormwater system can actually be harmful to fish here in Black Diamond.

11. Do you own a car?

- Yes
- No

If you answered “Yes,” you were given the opportunity to answer questions 12-17; if “No,” you were taken to question 18.

12. Where do you typically wash your car?

- At a commercial car wash
- At home in my driveway
- At home in my yard
- At a charity car wash/fundraiser
- I do not wash my car

Interested in updating results from our survey from a few years ago.

13. Where does the water go when washing your car?

- Wash water goes onto dirt/gravel/grass on my property
- Wash water goes off my driveway and down the street into a ditch
- Wash water goes off my driveway into the nearest storm drain or catch basin
- Wash water goes off my driveway and into the sanitary sewer system
- I do not know where exactly the wash water goes
- Not applicable

Interested in understanding if everyone knows where their water goes.

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Washing a car on grass is a good way to conserve water and helps keep our lakes and streams clean:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

Washing your car on your lawn is a great way to conserve as you won't have to turn the sprinklers on later that day. This also helps protect our lakes and streams from chlorine, sediment and fluids from your car, and any chemicals from the soap as most or all of it will all soak into the grass.

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Biodegradable car wash soap has no negative impacts on lakes and creeks:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

Hopefully you disagree. A lot of times words like "biodegradable, organic, natural" are used for marketing. Just because it has those key words on the package doesn't mean that there aren't chemicals that can be harmful for the environment. Be sure to choose your car wash soaps carefully.

16. Where do you maintain your car?

- I do repairs myself at home
- I take my car to a mechanic
- It depends on the maintenance that is needed

Gathering information

17. If you do maintenance on your car at home, how do you dispose of old fluids?

- I take them to a facility that recycles the fluids
- I pour them down a sink so it goes into the sanitary sewer system
- I pour them down the nearest storm drain
- I store them at my house

Hopefully you take your fluids to a facility that can recycle the fluids. Many automotive stores will take used fluids. Dumping fluids down the storm drain or into the sanitary sewer system creates other problems.

18. Do you own a gas-powered boat? (if no, please skip ahead to question 23)

- Yes
- No

If you answered "Yes," you were given the opportunity to answer questions 19-21; if "No," you were taken to question 22.

19. Where do you store your boat?

- On a lake or other body of water year-round
- In my yard/driveway/garage or a storage facility year-round
- On a lake part of the year; in my yard/driveway/garage or storage facility the other part of the year

Gathering information

20. Where do you put gas in your boat?

- On the lake or other body of water using gas cans
- Pull it out of the water and gas it up using gas cans
- Tow it to a gas station

The best option would be to tow it to a gas station, but there are risks associated with all three options and they all involve spilling gas (gas that gets spilled on the side of the boat at the gas station can still get into the water)

21. Where do you put maintain your boat?

- On a lake or other body of water
- In my yard/driveway/garage
- It depends on the maintenance that is needed

This question is more informational. It likely does depend on the type of maintenance (re-wiring a radio vs. changing the oil). Hopefully for any maintenance you perform that involves fluids you pull the boat out of the water.

22. Which of the following best describes you:

- I have a pet but it never goes outside
- I have a pet and I always clean up after it
- I have a pet and I sometimes clean up after it, depending on the location
- I have a pet and I never clean up after it because it is gross
- I have a pet and I never clean up after it because I don't have anything to use
- I have a pet and I never clean up after it because I don't care to
- I do not have a pet

It is pretty gross, but we do need to clean up after our pets if they do go outside. Bacteria from their droppings can leach into the stormwater system and into our lakes and creeks.

23. True or false: It is okay to leave pet waste on the ground because it's natural and acts like a fertilizer:

- True
- False
- Not sure

Sorry, pet waste is not a fertilizer. It contains a lot of bacteria and can do more harm than good to your yard and garden. If you were to want to reuse it as fertilizer, it would need to be composted first, and even then it could take a couple of years for it to be safe to use.

24. True or false: Oil that spills on a lake/other body of water will just get diluted and will not cause any problems:

- True
- False
- Not sure

Oil and water do not mix. It will spread out a bit, but it will just float on top of the water and won't mix in with it. The water does a good job carrying the oil, unfortunately, which can make oil very difficult to clean up.

25. If you spilled fluids on a lake/other body of water, who would you call?

- 911
- City of Black Diamond Public Works Department
- Washington Department of Ecology
- I would not call anyone

Please call 911. The dispatcher will call both Fire and Police who can respond to a spill. If they need help, they will contact the Public Works Department for more supplies. After cleanup, the Department of Ecology will be contacted.

26. If you saw someone else spill/dump fluids on a lake/other body of water, who would you call?

- 911
- City of Black Diamond Public Works Department
- Washington Department of Ecology
- I would not call anyone

Same as #25 above, please call 911.

27. Which of the following statements regarding fluids and chemicals (automotive, fertilizers, soaps, paints, gas, etc) best describes you?

- Before I use or dispose of any fluid/chemical, I always read and follow the directions
- I always read the directions but I do not always follow them
- I always read the directions but never follow them
- I sometimes read and follow the directions
- I never read the directions

Please read and follow the directions. If you're supposed to dilute a chemical before use outside and you don't, you end up with a concentrated dose of whatever you're using.

28. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: City staff will pick up any debris that falls in my yard, including leaves and branches, as long as I put it next to the road:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

Please do not put your yard debris in the road or next to the road for the City to pick up. We are not equipped nor do we have the funds to haul away and dispose of your yard waste. There are facilities that can take your yard waste and some companies will pick it up for you. These piles create hazards for your neighbors.

29. Do you agree or disagree with the following: An unacceptable way to clean up our yards of leaves, dirt, and pine needles is to blow them into the road for a street sweeper to clean:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

As a follow-up to #28, please do not blow your debris into the road. Think about the last time you saw a street sweeper on your road. Due to limited funds, the City is not able to sweep the roads very often. Needles and leaves blown into the road will just sit there with any chemicals from your yard and, eventually, will make their way to the storm system with those chemicals and will head into our lakes and creeks.

30. True or false: You are allowed to clear catch basins/storm drains of debris (e.g. leaves):

- True
- False
- Not sure

If you see water pooling around a storm drain because of leaves and other debris, feel free to clear the drain. This will help the Public Works department out and will be a nice gesture for your neighbors. You are definitely allowed to help us out there. If you're not able to clear it, please call City Hall at 360-886-5700 and we can get someone out to clear it up.

31. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: An acceptable way to keep water from entering my property from the street is to add more gravel to the shoulder, redirecting the water further down the street:

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

This isn't the best way to keep water off your property. All you are doing is creating a problem for your neighbor down the road. You can find ways to redirect water on your property so it doesn't go somewhere you don't want it, like into your garage, but if it's a big enough problem, contact the Public Works department and we can consider some options.

32. Too much phosphorus can be harmful to our local bodies of water, which of the following can be sources of phosphorus? (check all that apply)

- Aquatic plants
- Septic tanks
- Soap
- Fertilizer
- Pesticides
- Sediment
- Wildlife
- Compost
- Pet waste

If you checked everything here, you are right. Phosphorus has many different sources. Phosphorus is natural, but too much isn't good for our lakes and creeks.

33. True or false: Through efforts by City staff and residents to minimize the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Sawyer, the Department of Ecology no longer requires the City to protect the lake from phosphorus:

- True
- False
- Not sure

This is false. We are still required to monitor phosphorus for Lake Sawyer and need to do what we can to minimize phosphorus levels.

34. What happens to wastewater (from toilets, sinks, etc.) at your residence?

- Goes to a septic tank (If you checked this box, please answer #36)
- Goes into the sanitary sewer system (If you checked this box, please skip ahead to #37)

If you have a septic tank, you're taken to question 35; if you're hooked to the sanitary sewer system, you're taken to question 36.

35. How often do you inspect/maintain your septic system?

- At least yearly
- Every 1-3 years
- Every 3-5 years
- Every 5-7 years
- Every 7-9 years
- It has been more than 9 years
- I was not aware that these needed maintenance

It can vary from house to house depending on how much water you use and how many people use the septic tank, but generally it's about 3-5 years. But it could be needed more frequently with higher use. King County has some good insights on [their website](#).

36. Complete the following in the best way that represents you: When it comes to changing what I do for stormwater, I _____:

- Am just one person and cannot make a difference
- Want to make a difference but do not know how to
- Am making a difference already and don't need to change anything else
- Feel like I'm making a difference but am willing to do more
- Am already paying a stormwater fee to the City so let City staff deal with improving stormwater
- Do not really care about stormwater and am not willing to change

We can all make a difference if we're willing to. We have a lot of lakes, creeks, and rivers in the Puget Sound area that provide excellent recreation, but if we ignore doing what we can to prevent pollutants from entering these water bodies, we won't get to use them as frequently.

37. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion in regards to paying the monthly stormwater fees:

- I have an impact on stormwater quality and feel this is a fair fee
- I have an impact on stormwater but the fee is too much
- Nothing we do can help water quality so we should not pay to try to help it
- I do not have an impact on stormwater quality and feel this fee is unfair
- I just pay the fee and do not worry about it
- I have no opinion

We all do have an impact on stormwater. This fee helps the City in its efforts to sweep the streets, clean out catch basins, apply for grants, and other tasks that help the City do its part for our lakes and creeks.

38. Do you have any comments regarding stormwater that were not addressed in this survey?

Were you looking to say something in the survey but weren't able to? This question was your opportunity.

We thank you, once again, for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like more information about stormwater, please visit the [City's Stormwater page on the website](#).