



If case of flooding

- If you are caught in your home or car by rapidly rising waters, call 911 immediately.
- Do not walk or wade through flooded areas.
- Do not drive where water is over the road or around barricaded road signs.
- For flood information, contact the **King County Flood Warning System**
Online at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wir/flood/flood.htm>
or by phone at 206-296-8200 or 1-800-945-9263
- To report roadside flooding, call Road Services' **24/7 Road Helpline** at 206-296-8100.



www.kingcounty.gov/roads

Resources

Illegal Dumping Hotline

www.kingcounty.gov/roads
206-296-SITE

King County Flood Warning System

www.kingcounty.gov/flood
206-296-8200 or 1-800-945-9263

King County Road Alert

www.kingcounty.gov/roads

Contact us

Need something done on your King County road?

www.kingcounty.gov/roads

24/7 Road Helpline

206-296-8100 or 1-800-527-6273

Comments?

If you have comments or questions regarding services provided by our division, please feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone.

10/07RSD

Alternative formats available

206-296-6590 TTY Relay: 711



King County

Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street
KSC-TR-0313
Seattle, WA 98104-3856
206-296-6590
Fax 206-296-0566

E-mail admin.roads@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/roads

Help prevent roadside flooding



King County

Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

www.kingcounty.gov/roads

The impact of clogged storm drains

Every year clogged storm drains lead to flooding in unincorporated King County, causing serious damage to private property, structures, crops, roads and utilities. Clogged drains also increase commute times, cause frustration, create safety hazards, and in a worst-case scenario can lead to loss of life.

Flooding is the most common and destructive natural hazard that occurs in King County, and clogged storm drains substantially increase the likelihood of flooding.

A year-round problem

Roadside flooding is a year-round problem that escalates during the fall when trees drop their leaves and the first heavy rainfall washes them into the drainage system. When storm drain grates are blocked, rains and other surface water do not have a place to drain properly, forcing surface water onto yards and roadways. Bank erosion and fast-moving water are the primary ways in which floodwaters create their path of destruction.

Our response

Whenever there is a strong and steady rainfall, Road Services maintenance crews respond to roadside flooding incidents. The majority of the calls we respond to are due to leaves and litter clogging storm drain grates. If you notice more than two inches of standing water on your property or in the roadway, we recommend you call the **24/7 Road Helpline** at 206-296-8100.

It can be costly to send a maintenance crew to investigate a roadside flooding call; depending on the seriousness of the situation, our response costs can escalate into thousands of dollars as additional response crews or special equipment are often required.

Front cover: Crew works to free clogged drain

Inside images: Neighborhood impacted by clogged storm drains

Help prevent roadside flooding

- **Take a moment to clean the storm drain grates in your neighborhood.** Make sure they are free of leaves, litter, and other debris, particularly when rainy weather is headed your way. Please dispose of debris properly.
- **Check ditches that lead to the drain grates.** Make sure they are free of litter and/or other items that may inhibit proper drainage.
- **Do not rake leaves or other organic refuse into the street or into a nearby ditch when doing yard work.** This refuse only ends up blocking the drainage system. Furthermore, yard waste reduces oxygen in the water and adds nutrients that would not otherwise get into the water system. These nutrients can lead to algae blooms in downstream water bodies and cause further damage.

Always take precautions when working alongside roadways.

- **Do not clean walkways with a hose.** Instead, sweep leaves, twigs, and grass clippings and place them in a compost pile or yard waste container. Otherwise, they may end up blocking the storm grate.
- **Do not dump trash or pollutants into ditches or drain grates.** Not only will these toxins clog the storm drain, they may severely damage local bodies of water.
- **Do not clear native vegetation.** While you might think you are beautifying the area, native vegetation is there as a natural system to absorb rainfall, slow runoff and increase infiltration.

Roadway and natural surface water runoff may contain oils and road waste. Wearing rubber gloves when cleaning out drains is advised.



Local neighborhood impacted with flooding

