

Take action now to get ahead of the rain.

Submitted by CRD Environmental Services
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The Insurance Bureau of Canada reported that last November's floods were the most costly severe weather event in BC's history. Record-breaking rainfalls caused rivers and streams to overflow, affecting roads, triggering landslides and resulting in many people losing their homes.

With the rainy season about to return, we have a few storms ahead in the capital region—and taking action now to manage rainwater at home can help prevent floods and pollution of our waterways.

What actions can we take?

- **Replace impervious surfaces with grass, gravel, cobblestone or other permeable pavement options when possible.** Using porous paving alternatives in spaces like your driveway will help absorb rainwater, reducing runoff volumes and preventing pollutants like dirt and oil residue from entering our waterways.
- **Manage rainwater with rain gardens and green rooftops.** Rain gardens and green roofs are designed to hold and soak in rainwater runoff temporarily. They effectively remove sediments and chemicals in rainwater and can be adapted to highly urbanized areas. They also support living plants by replicating natural pollutant removal mechanisms from forested ecosystems.
- **Collect and store rainwater for future use.** With a harvesting system, rainwater can be treated and purified for outdoor irrigation and domestic purposes such as flushing. Rainwater harvesting can help supplement municipal water demand, recharge our groundwater and reduce the volume of water that enters our stormwater system.

Want to learn more about preventing stormwater pollution? Visit www.crd.bc.ca/livegreen.