Clean Water is Important to All of Us!

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; pet waste; residential car washing; and failing septic tanks.

All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters clean.

Protect Our Watersheds One Drop at a Time

Your actions can help keep our water clean. Find out how and spread the word!

Greater Lansing Regional Committee For Stormwater Management

www.mywatersheds.org

For more information about protecting our water visit our website or contact the agency listed below.

Cover Image Courtesy of Puget Sound Action Team, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma

Contact Information

Lawn & Garden Care

WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,

REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST

FERTILIZING THE LAWN.

Greater Lansing Regional Committee For Stormwater Management

www.mywatersheds.org

"Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!"

What's the problem with fertilizer?

Fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully.

If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow untreated into our rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes.

Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

You should never rake or blow grass clippings into the street where they may be carried with runoff water to surface water.

Where Do All of Those Storm Drains Lead?

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants?

The purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries flow directly into our creeks, rivers, and eventually the Great Lakes.

How Can You Care for Your Yard *and* Help Keep Our Environment Clean?

You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips.

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Follow the manufacturer's recommended amounts.
- Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use.
- Don't over water your lawn and garden. Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn area to decompose and recycle nutrients back to the turf area.
- Sweep up clippings and fertilizer from paved surfaces and dispose of properly.

Together we can stop water pollution at the source!