



# General Public Pollution Prevention



## As a Member of the General Public, How Can I Prevent Water Pollution?

### Ten Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution



1. Cover piles of loose landscaping materials, such as sand, bark, and dirt.
2. Prevent soil erosion, vegetate bare spots and avoid overgrazing of horses and livestock.
3. Use fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides sparingly; do not overwater your lawn.
4. Pick up after your pet; dispose of waste in a trash receptacle.
5. Have your septic tank professionally inspected every 3 years and pumped every 3 – 5 years.
6. During construction activities, minimize disturbed areas, stabilize slopes, avoid disturbing natural channels and limit the amount of dirt tracked out of the project site.
7. Never dump anything down the storm drains or into waterways.
8. Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. Use an absorbent like kitty litter or sand to soak up oil and antifreeze spills.
9. Do not disturb vegetation or soil in and around natural waterways.
10. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.

### Erosion Control

- Keep areas well vegetated and restore bare areas with vegetation. Plants can hold soil in place and help water infiltrate into the ground.
- Maintain vegetative filter-strips and riparian buffers near creeks and ponds.
- Manage pastures to prevent heavy grazing. Avoid soil compaction and excessive removal of vegetation by timing the use of pastures and controlling the number of animals.
- Maintain a strip of dense grass down slope of bare areas such as paddocks and turnouts to help trap sediment.
- Keep creek banks vegetated to hold soil in place.
- Use proper construction techniques, revegetate areas disturbed by construction or grading. During construction, install and maintain measures such as straw bales to trap sediment.



### Maintaining Clean Water



- Keep clean water away from areas with pollutants. Use berms, grassed waterways, and underground pipelines.
- Minimize disturbances to wetlands, riparian areas, and meadows.
- Limit impacts by avoiding grading and/or clearing during the winter months.
- Maintain vegetation and replant bare areas.
- Control excessive runoff from water troughs.

## **Animal Care and Management**

- Use less-toxic alternatives for grooming. Even biodegradable products can be harmful to water bodies and the environment.
- Wash animals over grassy areas which allows wash water to seep into the ground or wash them in an area that is routed to the sanitary sewer.
- Use a spray nozzle with an automatic shut-off when washing animals to conserve water.
- Carry plastic bags to pick up animal waste when going for walks or hikes.

