

# Top Ten Things You Can Do to Protect Your Watershed

## 1. Water Only Where & When It's Really Needed



## 2. Limit Use of Pesticides & Fertilizers

Limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers used on your lawn. Consider using an alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is the use of natural methods to deter pests.

## 3. Plant Native Vegetation

By planting vegetation that is adapted to your region you will reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and watering that will be required. This means less work for you!



## 4. Redirect Rooftop Runoff

Redirect rooftop runoff using a rain barrel or at the very least a spreader.

## 5. Dispose of Pet Waste Properly

Because pet waste can be high in bacteria and nutrients, it should be disposed of in a toilet or trash can.



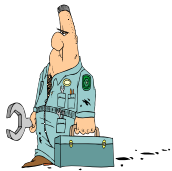
## 6. Carefully Choose Where to Wash Your Car



Washing your car on you lawn will reduce the amount of water that is converted to runoff and allow the detergents to be filtered by your lawn before it enters the stream system. Another alternative is choosing an automatic carwash that is connected to the sewer system or recycles wash water.

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## 7. Properly Maintain Vehicles



Regular maintenance will ensure a smooth running machine and reduce the amount of oil and other fluid leaks as well as reducing other pollutants that result from driving cars.

## 8. Recycle and Dispose of Household Chemicals Properly

All paints, oils, grease, antifreeze and cleaning products should be disposed of properly. Many of these items need to special processing which dumping down the stormdrain or even a household drain can not do. Many communities have a household hazardous waste disposal station or annual collection day.

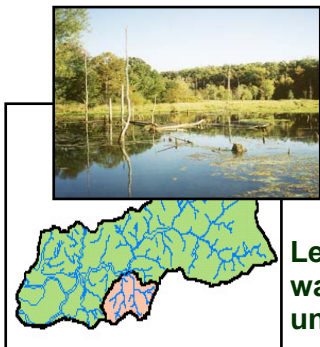


## 9. Properly Maintain Septic System



For most people, out of site out of mind. Unfortunately though, septic systems are one of the top polluters because of their limited lifetime and up to 35% failure rate. Septic system discharge has high levels of bacteria and nutrients that can contaminate the groundwater, as well as streams. It is critical to have your septic system regularly inspected and maintained. Inspections should be done at least once every three years.

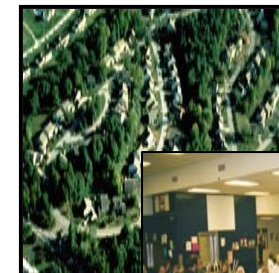
## 10. Get Educated & Become Involved!



Learn more about your watershed and its unique qualities!



Find out what the land development plans are for your area!



Be involved in the future of your environment!

