Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn, or other impervious surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don’t let the spills into a storm sewer drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids that participate in service stations. Do not dispose of these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is not necessary, use these chemicals in recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will wash into your local streams.
- Select native plants and grasses that require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hauling down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don’t overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don’t let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover all of the soil and mulching used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from flowing or washing off your yard and into your local waterbodies. Separate these areas in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement
- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and metal.
- Use hazardous substances like paint, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Some substances are toxic to animals and must be disposed of properly.
- Purchase and use automotive, household, and R.V. fluids from reliable sources.

Pet Care
- When walking your pet, clean up after your pet and dispose of a properly. Floating pet waste is the best disposal method, leaving pet waste on the ground may spread health risks to a flowing stream or to beaches and anywhere you notice the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Swimming Pools and Spa
- Drain your swimming pool only when it is below water level in shallow areas.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills. Consider using a covered area to avoid spillage or contamination.

Septic System Use and Maintenance
- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).
- Care for drainage areas drained by septic system or drainage fields. Tree only grass or deciduous plants and keep drainage areas open.
- Draw operation system or drainage field is drained by not using drag or pulling vehicles over it. Plant only grass or deciduous plants and keep drainage areas open.

Storm drains connect to waterbodies!

Remember: Only rain down the drain!
For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/spectra/stormwater or
www.epa.gov/npdes