



The Solution To Pollution Is In Our Hands

- ⊕ Mow often enough so you can leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer. Use clippings as mulch. Compost clippings and leaves that would otherwise “fertilize” local waters.
- ⊕ Keep fallen leaves out of gutters or ditches. Use leaves as mulch or compost.
- ⊕ Plant an extra tree. Plant wild flowers and grasses, thickets, or other natural landscapes that can catch rain and snowmelt. Let leaves, twigs, and other yard “wastes” decay on the ground as in the forest or prairie.
- ⊕ Dig up no more earth than necessary for any project. Seed bare soil and cover with mulch immediately to reduce erosion. Preserve existing vegetation.
- ⊕ Point roof downspouts away from foundations and driveways to the yard where water can soak into the ground. Use a rain barrel.
- ⊕ Use yard chemicals carefully and sparingly. Follow label directions. Use pesticides and weed killers as a last resort after weeding, rotation, etc.
- ⊕ In general, use toxic or hazardous products only when you can’t do without.
- ⊕ Keep them away from storm sewers, lakes and streams. Call county waste management to learn how to dispose of unwanted hazardous products.
- ⊕ Collect oil and engine coolant for recycling. Seal well and take to gas stations or local hazardous waste disposal center.
- ⊕ Wash cars on the lawn. Soapy water in the street runs to the nearest storm sewer.
- ⊕ Keep cars tuned and in good condition. Check for engine drips. Walk, bike, or take the bus.
- ⊕ Along the water’s edge, grow a “buffer” of dense, natural vegetation to filter pollutants and stabilize the shoreline.
- ⊕ Store fuels and chemicals carefully. Check often for leaks. Clean up spills right away.
- ⊕ Clean up pet wastes immediately to keep bacteria and nutrients out of lakes and streams.
- ⊕ Use salt sparingly in winter. Chip ice off pavement, or use sand.