

*Did you know many sources of pollution can start in your own backyard? The list below shows what you can do at home to be a good stormwater neighbor.*

- 💧 Make sure your lawn chemicals, car care products and household cleaners are properly sealed in their containers. Safely store these containers away from people, pets and runoff water.
- 💧 Properly dispose of (or better yet, recycle) used motor oil and other automotive products.
- 💧 Limit fertilizer and pesticide use, and sweep these off of paved areas to keep them out of storm sewers.
- 💧 Wash cars on the lawn so soapy water can be absorbed instead of running off into storm sewers.
- 💧 Directing downspouts to unpaved areas lets rain water soak into the ground which controls the flow of runoff into the lakes.
- 💧 Cover bare soil by planting the area with grass or some other vegetation, and then covering with mulch or hay until vegetation takes root.

- 💧 A small oil drip or gas leak may not seem like a big deal, but after a good rain these toxic chemicals become runoff that washes into the lakes. Keeping your car tuned will help prevent these problems.
- 💧 On icy pavement, use sand or chip the ice off when possible. If using salt, apply it sparingly.
- 💧 Clean up pet wastes to prevent nutrients and bacteria from washing into waterways.
- 💧 Keep fallen leaves and grass clippings out of pavement or street gutter.
- 💧 Composting converts leaves and grass clippings into a nutrient-rich mulch for your planting beds and gardens.
- 💧 Natural areas and planting beds lend variety to a residential lawn, attract wildlife and mean you have less lawn to mow and fertilize.

## Household Guide to Preventing Stormwater Pollution



### MS4 Stormwater Program

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**Be Part of the Solution. Stop Stormwater Pollution.  
Clean Water Starts with You!**

Spring has sprung...

# Home Hot Spots for Water Quality

Around every yard are spots where your activities affect water quality. This illustration shows a few of them. Take a look around your home with an eye toward water quality.

...in Valparaiso

-  **Good for water quality**
-  **Bad for water quality**
-  **Could be good or bad, depending on your actions**

