

# **Our Actions Affect Our Rivers and Lakes**

## **Actions Affecting Our Rivers & Lakes**

## **Tips to Prevent Pollution**

### **Maintaining lawns & gardens**

Keep fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. Select a slow-release and low phosphorus formula.

### **Washing your automobile**

Direct polluted wash water away from streets and storm drains. Wash your car on your lawn or better - go to a car wash.

### **Repairing your automobile**

Only repair vehicles in areas where leaks and spills cannot flow toward storm drains, or better - take it to a mechanic.

### **Caring for pets & other animals**

Clean up animal waste before it rains. Throw it in the trash or flush it down your toilet.

### **Disconnecting / redirecting downspouts**

Disconnect downspouts from sewer systems. Direct them into a vegetated area away from building foundations.

### **Becoming a River & Lake Friendly Partner**

Join one of several community organizations\*, and / or participate in stream monitoring, storm drain stenciling, or other river and lake friendly neighborhood activities.

### **Cleaning up debris, spills & leaks**

Do not use your hose as a broom. Do not wash or sweep debris, spilled, or leaked materials into storm drains.

### **Landscaping**

Cover bare ground around vegetation with mulch and seed bare ground as soon as possible to reduce erosion.

### **Managing household hazardous waste**

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste and use non-toxic alternatives when possible.

### **Installing & repairing plumbing**

Only connect plumbing in your home to the sanitary sewer.

### **Installing driveways, walkways & patios**

Use paving materials that are porous and / or sloped toward vegetated areas.

### **Maintaining septic systems**

Properly operate, maintain, and clean septic systems.

\* Friends of the Detroit River, Friends of the Rouge, and The Stream Team

For more information on preventing pollution to our rivers and lakes, please call the Wayne County 24-Hour Environmental Hotline at (888) 223-2363, or visit our website at <http://www.wcdoe.org>.

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