

DO NOT DUMP ANYTHING

DOWN THE DRAIN!



**Do not pour anything down the drain – it may flow directly to inland lakes, streams or Lake Michigan!
Polluted stormwater runoff can harm plants, fish, animals, people, and it can even pollute our drinking water sources.
Be sure to do your part to protect water quality.**

**Southwest Michigan
Water Quality
Coalition**

www.swmpc.org/water.asp

What Can I Do?

Simple Tips for Protecting Water Quality at Home

- ☔ Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- ☔ NEVER dump anything down storm drains. Take unwanted chemicals and paint to a hazardous waste collection site.
- ☔ Check for and fix car leaks and recycle motor oil.
- ☔ Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- ☔ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- ☔ Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- ☔ Pick up after your pet and throw the waste in the garbage.
- ☔ Have your septic tank system pumped and inspected regularly.
- ☔ Compost your yard waste.
<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wmd-swp-compostbroch.pdf>
- ☔ Avoid pesticides, use non-toxic gardening techniques and learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
<http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~epados/lawn/src/pest.htm>

For waste/motor oil collection sites call:

Berrien County Community Development
Dept.: (269) 983-7111 ex. 8234 OR
Cass County MSUE: (269)445-4438

DID YOU KNOW?

Now, more than 60% of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, failing septic systems, and fertilizers from lawns, gardens and farms. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water – and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Other tips:

- Plant native, drought tolerant, erosion-controlling ground covers instead of lawns to reduce pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer runoff. For more information on using native plants visit www.for-wild.org.
- Use non-chlorine pool and spa alternatives. If using chlorine, add a de-chlorination product such as sodium thiosulfate before draining the water. Then drain the water onto a permeable surface such as a lawn.

keep it **BLUE**



only rain in the drain

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