

**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](http://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](http://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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