

Press Release: Water Quality Information



Water Quality Information

Everyone needs to do their part to protect our streams, rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan! We depend on these water resources for our drinking water and for recreation: swimming, boating, and fishing.

How do pollutants enter the water?

- In urban areas, storm drains are a main source of pollutants, draining virtually everything from lawns, streets, and parking lots directly into local streams, rivers, and lakes. Most storm drains do not treat or filter pollutants.
- Common pollutants include; fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, leaves, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, sediment, and pet waste.

Simple Steps to Protect our Water

- ◆ **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste.** Never dump items such as motor oil, fuel products, cleaners, paints, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides on the ground or down the drain. They can contaminate groundwater and surface water. Check with your county for collection dates.
- ◆ **Limit Fertilizer Use.** During watering or rainstorms, unnecessary phosphorus applied to lawns is washed into storm drains, which empty directly into local waterways. Get a soil test at an MSU Extension Office to see what amenities your lawn needs. It is the law to use no-phosphorus fertilizer!
- ◆ **Maintain Your Septic System.** If you have a septic system, have it checked and serviced every 2-3 years to insure it is working properly.
- ◆ **Close Abandoned Wells.** Close any abandoned wells on your property. They can act as direct conduits for contamination of groundwater.
- ◆ **Only Rain in the Storm Drain.** Rainwater and snowmelt is the only thing that should wash down our storm drains. Anything else grass clippings, leaves, motor oil, even fertilizer is considered an ILLICIT DISCHARGE and will pollute our water.
- ◆ **Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS).** If you see any pollution affecting air, land, water, wetlands or public drinking water supplies call: 1-800-292-4706 to report it.

For more information on what you can do for water quality visit:

www.letskeepitblue.org