

Why Your Actions Matter

Individuals are more important than ever in improving and preserving our streams for wildlife, recreation, drinking water, quality of life, and as a legacy for our children.

How do our actions influence water quality? Rainwater that runs off hard surfaces including roads, parking lots, roofs, sidewalks, and driveways is piped directly to streams without cleaning or filtering.

This runoff carries everything picked up along its path including litter, chemicals, and excess nutrients.

Even clean runoff causes problems in Muskingum County because of the amount of water entering streams and rivers after a rain. The extra runoff from hard surfaces causes streambank erosion, property loss, and even flooding.

These simple tips can help keep our streams and rivers healthy for all of us.

Be a Partner in the Change for Clean Water!



Reporting Problems

Chemical and petroleum spills: call the Ohio EPA 24-hour hotline, (800) 282-9378.



Sewage-related pollution: Call Muskingum County Public Health at (740) 452-5107, After Hours Emergency line (740) 280-2227.



Agriculture or manure-related pollution: call Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District at (740) 454-2027 or use the "Contact Us" tab at www.muskingumswcd.org.



Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

www.muskingumswcd.org

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

Easy tips for protecting local streams



www.muskingumswcd.org

What We Can Do . . . In the Yard

Plant grass or ground cover in areas of bare soil. Rain can carry large amounts of soil to a storm drain or stream even on gentle slopes. Eroded soil is the major pollutant in Ohio's rivers.

Remove grass clippings and leaves from street gutters and storm drains. Don't toss clippings down a stream bank or in a ditch. As organic material decomposes in streams, it decreases the oxygen necessary for aquatic life.

Utilize fertilizers and pesticides responsibly, or consider alternatives. When using pesticides and fertilizers, read the labels and do your research to ensure proper application and timing. Apply chemicals in dry weather and water sparingly to keep them in your yard. Sweep from sidewalks and driveways back into the yard.

Bag pet waste and throw it in the trash. It contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and harmful bacteria and parasites which pollute our streams. Never hose it down a storm drain.



Direct downspouts to a rain barrel or a rain garden instead of toward driveways, streets or storm drains.

Plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Trees soak up hundreds of gallons of rainwater and native plants support pollinators and other wildlife. Native plants are also better adapted to our climate and require fewer fertilizers and pesticides.



. . . In the Garage

Wash your car on grass or gravel, or use commercial car washes.

Commercial washes are required to recycle water and send it to a wastewater treatment plant. Water from washing your car carries soap, dirt, and grease down the storm drain to the nearest stream.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean parking areas.

Use kitty litter to soak up auto leaks or chemical spills, then sweep up and double bag before putting it in the trash.



Recycle used oil. Advanced Auto Parts, AutoZone, Napa, and Jiffy Lube will accept the amount from one oil change if it's put in a container with a lid.

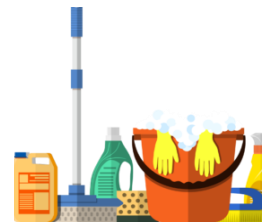
. . . Around the House

Treat oil-based paint, thinners, solvents and polishes as household hazardous waste. Latex paint is waterbased, so rinse brushes in a sink. Allow extra latex paint to dry and throw the paint can in the trash.



Decide if and when you need heavy-duty cleaning power. Some household cleaners are difficult for wastewater treatment plants to remove. Phosphates in some dishwasher soap and the anti-bacterial ingredient triclosan are examples.

Store all chemicals in a dry place protected from the rain. Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed of to prevent pollution. For collection dates and locations call (800) 860-8103 or visit www.wasteabate.org



Maintain your aerator or septic system.

Put aside a monthly "fee" so that the pumping that is necessary every three to five years will be covered. For more information, or question, contact Muskingum County Health Department: (740) 454-9741.

