

Protect Water Quality

Water agencies do an excellent job of delivering water that is safe to drink. However, many of our water supplies are threatened by contaminants. Here's how you can help protect the quality of your local water supply:

AROUND THE HOUSE

Look for nontoxic alternatives for household products, and properly use and store all toxic products, including cleaners, solvents, and paints. Take unwanted pharmaceuticals and household hazardous materials to a local collection site for disposal.

IN THE GARDEN

Switch from garden chemicals to nontoxic alternatives. Use chemicals carefully and sparingly in accordance with labels and dispose of them at a collection center. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up garden clippings, and deposit them in a garbage can or compost pile to keep storm drains clear.

YOUR VEHICLES

Take used motor oil and antifreeze to a proper collection center. Have your vehicle inspected and maintained regularly to reduce leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Wash your car at a car wash so the soapy water can be properly recycled.

IN THE KITCHEN

Avoid using garbage disposals. Compost food wastes or feed to pets when possible. Putting food waste, oils, and grease down the drain burdens water treatment plants and affects aquatic life and water quality downstream.

Easy Ways to Save Water

Take these steps to help save water and money!

USE LESS

Be aware of the amount of water you use, and look for ways to use less. For instance, fill sinks with water instead of letting water run when you wash, shave, or do dishes.

REPAIR LEAKING FAUCETS

A leaking faucet can waste more than 3,820 gallons of water a year. Check each tap in the house, and replace worn washers or valve seats.

INSTALL WATER-SAVING DEVICES

If your toilet is not a low-flow model, install a water-saving displacement device in the tank. Use low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, or flow restrictors.

SAVE OUTDOORS

Water your lawn only when it needs it, and preferably before dawn or after sunset to minimize evaporation. Automated irrigation systems should have a rain or moisture-detection override. Landscape with plants that require little water.

Fix all leaks!



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Water

A Vital Resource

