

What Can You Do To Protect Water Quality

Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil and animal waste are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the nearest street or storm drain, they end up in your local lake or river. You can do your part to protect water quality by doing the following:

- Follow Minnesota's phosphorus lawn fertilizer law.
- Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint solvents and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Excessive fertilizer and pesticide applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute the watershed.
- Keep fertilizers off paved surfaces.
- Keep leaves and lawn clippings out of your gutters, streets and ditches.
- Never wash or blow soil or grass clippings into the street.
- Pickup pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.
- Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.

