

From the Land to Your Water

Every time it rains, the runoff that reaches rivers and streams can add a heavy pollution load to Old Man River. The polluted runoff is caused by all of our activities in the watershed

Streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater are sources of drinking water. Preventing water pollution is critical to protecting drinking water from contamination and reducing the need for costly treatments.

Well

Sinkhole used as trash dump

Water Treatment Plant

A watershed is the land area that catches and drains rainfall or snowmelt into a stream, river, or lake. A watershed is the place where we live. It is an interconnected system made up of land, water, people, plants, and animals. The sources of pollution may be in your neighborhood, or many miles away.

Communities undertake storm drain stenciling projects to prevent pollution.

NO DUMPING.
LEADS TO STREAM



west virginia department of environmental protection

Who is Helping the Watershed?

Even if you live miles away from a river or stream, you can prevent water pollution by making sure that the runoff from your home and garden stays clean. Help Old Man River lighten his load!



Pollution solutions you can do at home.

Lawns and Gardens

- When using fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, read the label carefully and follow the directions.
- Avoid applying pesticides and fertilizers before storms.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers near wells, streams, and ponds, unless instructions allow for such use.

Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

- Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings dramatically reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.

Around Your Home – Household Chemicals

- If the label of a household product contains the words "toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, caution, danger, warning, or poison," it must be used and stored carefully.
- Many chemicals contained in household products are not completely removed by the biological treatment in septic systems or wastewater treatment plants. Buy and use only what you need.
- Never bury or dump on the ground any hazardous household wastes.

Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

- Baking soda on a damp cloth to scrub sinks.
- A mixture of white vinegar and water for cleaning ceramic tile floors, windows, and other glass surfaces.
- Borax flakes for washing clothes.

Control Soil Erosion

Add trees, shrubs, and ground covers to your lawn. Plants prevent soil erosion by keeping the dirt where it belongs... on your yard!

If your lawn is close to a stream, allow vegetation to grow along the waterway to slow runoff and trap sediments and pollutants.

Motor Vehicles

- Repair oil, antifreeze, and transmission fluid leaks promptly.
- Avoid spills. Keep kitty litter available to help clean spills.
- Recycle motor oil.

Pet Waste

- Clean up after pets by picking up wastes and either: disposing in the trash, or flushing down the toilet.