

10 ways

You Can Help Keep Our Waters Clean



environmental
defence

CANADIAN OPERATOR



BLUE FLAG

Simply by going about your daily routines, you might be unknowingly contributing to the pollution of our waterways. Luckily, there are a few easy ways to reduce your impact.

1. Take a good look at your outdoor surfaces

Stormwater flows across concrete or asphalt and into storm drains—bringing all the dirty stuff it picked up along the way. Stop these pollution streams on your property by using gravel, wood chips, or other porous materials whenever possible.



2. Avoid using pesticides or chemical fertilizers

These chemicals have been linked to a wide range of human health hazards, ranging from headaches to cancer. They also pollute both ground and surface water. If you have to use these products, do not spray lawns before rainfall.

3. Don't feed birds at the beach

Bird waste can be a potential health hazard as it contains bacteria, including *E. coli*. Feeding can attract birds, resulting in large amounts of bird waste on beaches and lakes.

4. Pick up after your pet

By doing so, you're not just being a good neighbour. Scooping up pet waste keeps bacteria from running into storm drains and water supplies.



5. Keep your vehicle in good condition

Ensure oil, coolant, antifreeze, and other nasty liquid leaks are fixed. Always wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of hosing down your vehicle in your driveway.

THE REASON: The pros are required to drain their wastewater into sewer systems where the water is treated before being discharged into our lakes.

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6. Avoid using single-use plastic

Plastic beverage bottles, plastic cutlery, and plastic bags don't decompose and many end up in our waterways.

Use reusable items when you can!



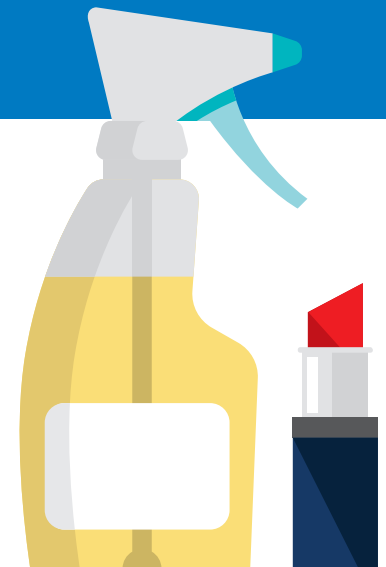
7. Ensure a clean septic system

To prevent accumulated household sludge, septic tanks should be inspected by a licensed professional at least once every two years.

8. Choose non-toxic household products whenever possible

Purchase personal care, cleaning, and other household products that don't contain chemicals that are harmful to you and the environment.

To learn what chemicals to avoid when you shop, download our Toxic Ten Pocket Guide at environmentaldefence.ca/toxicten



9. Remember, your sink is not a trash can

Don't pour paint, oil, or products containing microbeads down the drain. These products may contain toxic substances and chemicals (like polyethylene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) that can escape through filtration systems and contaminate our water supply.



10. And neither is your toilet

Never flush products, such as disposable wipes (even "flushable" ones), medicine, or feminine hygiene products down the toilet.

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