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Do you care?

Do you care...

about streams
and rivers?



It's easier than you think to make a difference!

City of Waterloo Storm Water Management Program

Every day, you can help protect our streams and rivers.

You may not realize it, but many of the household products that go into your drain and storm sewers every day are hazardous to the environment! Even worse, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to handle some of those wastes.

If you enjoy the beauty of the Cedar River, and want to help protect our precious water resources, here are a few simple ways to keep the waste from your household from polluting our rivers and streams:



1. NEVER dump or dispose of chemicals in streets, yards, sewer intakes, streams or rivers. Storm drains lead directly to rivers, and pouring a chemical anywhere it will be washed into those drains is virtually the same as dumping it straight into the stream.
2. Choose products that are phosphate-free, biodegradable or non-toxic. Better yet, use a safe alternative – a list is provided here for you to keep as a reference.
3. Read the label, and avoid products that contain ammonia, chlorine, diethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid and petroleum solvents.
4. Discourage pests by practicing good housekeeping and maintenance. If you do have an insect problem, avoid consumer products that include toxic chemicals, and choose pest control companies that use less toxic products.

In the same way that little hazards can add up to big ones, little environmentally-friendly changes in each household can add up to cleaner streams and rivers for the future!

Each of us makes a difference!

Safe Alternatives for Chemicals Used in the Home

ANTS Red chili powder or cream of tarter at point of entry	BLEACH Borax	BRASS POLISH Worcestershire sauce	CHROME POLISH apple cider vinegar, then polish with baby oil
CLEANERS 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/3 cup vinegar, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 gallon of water	COFFEE CUP STAINS moist salt	DECAL REMOVER soak in white vinegar	DISH GREASE CUTTER 1/2 cup baking soda + usual amount detergent
DRAIN CLEANER plunger followed by 1/2 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup vinegar, 2 quarts boiling water	FERTILIZER compost or vermicompost	FLEA & TICK REPELLENT pine needles, fennel, rye, or rosemary	FLIES well watered pot of basil
FLOOR CLEANER 1 cup vinegar, 2 gallons of water	FURNITURE POLISH 2 parts vegetable oil, 1 part lemon juice	DISPOSAL DEODORIZER citrus rinds	GREASE REMOVAL Borax on damp cloth
HAND CLEANER paint & grease remover - baby oil	INK SPOT REMOVER cold water, 1 tablespoon cream of tarter, and 1 tablespoon lemon juice	LAUNDRY PRESOAK paste of baking soda and water	LINOLEUM CLEANER 1 cup white vinegar, 2 gallons water
MILDEW REMOVER equal parts of vinegar and salt	MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/3 cup vinegar, 1/4 cup baking soda and 1 gallon of water	OIL STAIN REMOVER white chalk rubbed into stain before laundering	OVEN CLEANER 2 tablespoons liquid soap, 2 teaspoons of Borax, warm water
PAINTBRUSH SOFTENER hot vinegar	PERSPIRATION STAINS baking soda	PET ODOR REMOVER cider vinegar	ROACH REPELLENT chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins
RUG CLEANER club soda	RUSTY BOLT REMOVER carbonated beverage, scouring powder	SCOURING POWDER baking soda	SPOT REMOVER club soda, lemon juice or salt
STAINLESS STEEL POLISH mineral oil	TOILET BOWL CLEANER paste of Borax and lemon juice	TUB & TILE CLEANER 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar, and warm water	UPHOLSTERY SPOT REMOVER club soda
WATERMARK REMOVAL toothpaste	WINE STAIN REMOVAL salt	WINDOW CLEANER 1/2 cup vinegar, 1 gallon warm water	WOOD POLISH 3 parts olive oil, 1 part (almond or olive oil) – interior unvarnished wood only

Questions? Call Waterloo's Storm Water Quality Management at 319-291-4312, or visit waterloo-ia.org. For additional information on clean water, visit epa.gov/nps and epa.com/npdes/stormwater.

