

GREEN IDEAS

Instead of: Use:

Toilet Cleaner	1 cup vinegar (let sit for a while) and sprinkle baking soda and scrub.
Bleach	Borax.
Glass Cleaner	1 part vinegar + 1 part water.
Drain Cleaner	1/2 cup of baking soda and 1 cup of vinegar dumped down the drain (it will fizz) Then pour boiling water down the drain.
Stain Remover	Cornstarch Paste.
Grease Cutter	1 cup of lemon juice + 1 cup of vinegar.
Air Freshener	a small dish of lemon juice or essential oils.
Floor Cleaner	Mix 1 vinegar to 2 gallons of water. Linoleum can be mopped with skim milk.
Furniture Polish	2 parts vegetable + 1 part lemon juice.

Pest Control

Pest:

Plant Repellent:

Ant	Mint, tansy, pennyroyal
Aphids	Mint, garlic, chives, anise
Japanese Beetle	Garlic, larkspur, tansy, rue, geranium
Mice	Onion
Slugs	Prostrate rosemary
Spider Mites	Onion, garlic, cloves, chives
Stink Bugs	Radish
Potato Bug	Green beans, coriander

For non-point pollution information contact:

Mahoning County Engineers Office

(330) 799-1581

For disposal of Household chemicals and recycling contact:

Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District

“The Green Team”

(330) 740-2060

www.greenteam.cc

For septic system maintenance information contact:

Mahoning County District Board of Health

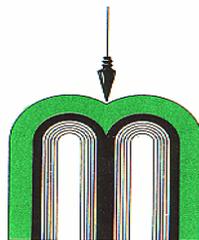
(330) 270-2855

www.mahoning-health.org/

Additional Information:

www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/index.html

www.cwp.org/



Mahoning County Engineers

940 Bears Den Rd.

Youngstown, OH 44511

(330) 799-1581 ph.

(330) 799-4600 fax

**Mahoning
County
Engineers**



**Good Housekeeping for
Mahoning County
Residents**



**Things YOU can do
around the home**

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM

You may not live next to a stream, but activity done on your land eventually gets to your local waterway. Surface water collects all pollutants as it runs across the land, which, eventually flows to streams, creeks, rivers, lakes, and groundwater. This kind of pollution is called **Non-Point Source Pollution**. Detection is difficult because it comes from many different sources.

Nearly 40 % of our nation's waterways are impaired from polluted runoff. Non-Point pollution comes from a variety of human land use activities such as, agriculture, surface mines, forestry, home wastewater treatment systems, construction sites, urban yards, and roadways. The snowmelt and rain runoff from impervious surfaces (such as parking lots, roads, driveways, and roofs) is called storm water runoff, and it transports non-point pollutants to Mahoning County waterways. A one-acre impervious surface produces 25,806 gallons of storm water for every inch of rain, compared to 1,630 gallons from a one-acre permeable surface such as a meadow.

The storm water runoff transports non-point pollution from human activity throughout the entire watershed. A watershed is a common collecting area for surface water, which directs it to the local waterway. Therefore, activities in your own yard can affect drinking water miles away. There are six major watersheds in Mahoning County. They are the Mahoning River Watershed, Meander Creek Watershed, Mill Creek Watershed, Yellow Creek Watershed, Middle Fork Little Beaver Creek and North Fork Little Beaver Creek Watershed. Depending on your property's location, the storm water runoff eventually flows downstream to one of these watersheds.

FOUR TYPES OF NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

There are four major types of non-point pollution, which enter into our waterways and inhibit the quality of our streams, rivers, and lakes.

1.) **Sediment:** Sediment is the most prevalent type of water pollution. Over one billion tons of sediment pollutes the nation's water each year! Sediment is very detrimental. Once in water it can clog fish gills, cause cloudiness in the water, fill in stream beds, and change the shape and flow rate of a stream or river.

2.) **Bacterial Pollution:** Bacteria are responsible for decomposing organic material in water. Oxygen is required for this process to occur, and bacteria will compete with other aquatic life for limited dissolved oxygen. Along with this depletion of dissolved oxygen comes the problem of bacterial pollution. Primary sources of this pollution are animal feed lots, runoff from livestock waste, slaughter houses, and improperly installed sewage systems. This pollution can contaminate both ground and surface water supplies, and may spread diseases including hepatitis, cholera, and salmonella.

3.) **Nutrient Pollution:** Nutrients are a necessity in order to sustain life; however, too much of a good thing can be quite harmful. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen, which are the main components of fertilizers, stimulate plant growth. A large amount of these nutrients enter lakes and streams through sewage and septic runoff, fertilizers, detergents, livestock waste, and industrial waste.

4.) **Toxic Pollution:** Toxic water pollution is a major health concern. Chemicals are used constantly in industry, agriculture, and around the home. Even safe chemicals can become toxic if disposed of improperly. Non-point source toxic pollution can be produced in both rural and urban areas. Roads and parking lots collect lead, oil, and other pollutants that are washed into streams directly or via storm drains. In rural areas, pesticides are applied to crops and yards to get rid of insects. These pesticides can pollute both ground and surface water. Household chemicals such as cleaners, dyes, and paints are also a large source of toxic pollution. This is especially harmful in areas, where homes get their water from wells.

YOU CAN BE THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION

Easy pollution solutions around your home regarding:

Household Chemicals

- ⇒ Take unwanted household chemicals to hazardous waste collection centers; do not pour them down the drain. This can disrupt your septic system.
- ⇒ Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground; this will contaminate runoff and ground water.
- ⇒ Use low phosphate or phosphate-free detergents
- ⇒ Use only enough of the product to get the job done

Landscaping and gardening

- ⇒ When landscaping your yard, select plants that have low requirements for water, fertilizers and pesticides
- ⇒ Preserve existing trees, and plant trees and shrubs to help prevent erosion
- ⇒ Try to decrease impervious surfaces by installing wood decks, bricks, or stones instead of cement walkways. Impervious surfaces speed up flowing water in drainage ditches, causing severe stream bank erosion in the receiving waters
- ⇒ Compost your yard trimmings; compost is a valuable soil conditioner which gradually releases nutrients to your lawn and garden
- ⇒ Spread mulch on bare ground to help prevent erosion and runoff

Septic Systems

- ⇒ Inspect and pump your systems regularly
- ⇒ Do not divert storm drains or basement pumps into septic systems
- ⇒ Do not use toilets as trashcans! Excess solids can clog the drain field

Water Conservation

- ⇒ Repair leaking faucets, toilets and pumps which can waste hundreds of gallons of water a week
- ⇒ Use dishwashers and washing machines only when fully loaded
- ⇒ Take short showers instead of baths
- ⇒ Turn off water when you are not using it. Don't let it run while brushing your teeth
- ⇒ Do not over-water your lawn or garden. This may increase leaching of fertilizers into groundwater, and excess water will evaporate.