Protect Our Water

When it rains, the water running along the gutters in our streets vanishes down storm drains. However, unlike what many people assume, the water in a storm drain does not go to a wastewater treatment plant. Instead, it drains directly into our local watershed followed by the Potomac River and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay.

This means yard debris, fertilizers, motor oil, pesticides, paint, and trash all have the potential to ultimately impact our drinking water, as well as impair or destroy many forms of aquatic life.

Fortunately, there are some steps YOU can take to make a difference

- Put all trash into the proper containers
- Pick up street litter, even when it is not yours
- Recycle as much as possible
- Properly dispose of motor oil — one gallon of oil can pollute two million gallons of water
- Apply fertilizers when rain will not wash it away, and sweep up excess
- Compost leaves, grass clippings, and organic matter
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste

The key here is to become educated on both the sources of pollution, and the locations of storm drains. Make sure that nothing ever goes down your local storm drain except for water. This will keep our water safe for children and future generations.

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