

Preventing Pollution at Home

Lawn and Garden Care

- Use less toxic pest control products
- Use a rake or broom- not a hose- to clean up lawn and garden clippings
- Start a compost pile or use the curbside yard waste recycling programs
- Divert rain spouts onto grass or landscaping
- Pick up pet wastes and place them in the garbage

Automotive

- Have your cars inspected and maintained regularly, and repair all leaks promptly.
- Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze!
- Cars pollute the air and water! Drive less; look into alternative forms of transportation.
- Wash cars on an unpaved surface where dirty water won't flow to a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain. Empty your bucket of soapy water into a sink or toilet. Better yet, use a commercial car wash.
- To find out more ways to reduce pollution from vehicles see our [Vehicle Pollution Prevention Site](#).

Home Maintenance and Repair

- Avoid using toxic products, look for alternatives.
- Read the label! Know how to use and store all toxic products, including paints, cleaners and solvents.
- Recycle mercury containing products (e.g. thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent tubes).
- Use up toxic products. If you need to throw them out take them to your Household Hazardous Waste drop off site.
- Use cat litter or other absorbent material to clean up toxic material spills from paved surfaces.
- Be sure that your cleaning company disposes wastewater to a sink, toilet or sanitary sewer cleanout- not the storm drain.
- When draining your pool or spa, pump water into a sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Rinse latex paint brushes in the sink.
- Recycle or reuse whenever is possible.
- When working on concrete, cement or mortar, keep materials from blowing or flowing to a driveway, street, gutter or storm drain.