



Iowa's lakes, rivers, streams & wetlands provide drinking water & resources to produce food & support business & industry, as well as the basis for outdoor recreation, fish & wildlife habitat. They are a source of life, commerce, enjoyment & opportunity for countless Iowans. There are two types of water pollution: point-source pollution & nonpoint-source pollution. Point-source pollution comes from a single, direct source, such as a factory or wastewater treatment plant that is discharged to waterways through a pipe. Nonpoint-source pollution – runoff of soil, fertilizer and manure from agricultural land in particular – is the most significant source of water pollution in Iowa.

WATER QUALITY:

Did you know that West Des Moines has a resident reimbursement program for rain barrels?

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Cleaning Supplies-Detergents and Soaps

- Choose phosphate-free detergents, soaps, and household cleaners.
- Select the proper load size for your washing machine.
- Only run your clothes or dish washer when you have a full load.
- Use the appropriate amount of detergent; more is not better.

Pet Waste

- Always pick up after your pet.
- Avoid walking your pet near streams & other waterways.
- Inform other pet owners of why picking up pet waste is important & encourage them to do so.

Washing Your Car

- Use a commercial car wash.
- Wash your car on a pervious surface such as grass or gravel.
- Use nontoxic, phosphate-free soaps.
- Empty wash water into the sink, toilet, or the grass.

Water Efficiency

- Choose WaterSense labeled products.
- Use low-flow faucets, shower heads, reduced-flow toilet flushing equipment, & water-saving appliances.
- Repair leaking faucets, toilets, & pumps.
- Take short showers instead of baths & avoid letting faucets run unnecessarily.

Lawn & Garden Care

- Apply the recommended amount of fertilizers only if necessary.
- Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways.
- Do not overwater lawns & gardens; use a soaker hose.
- Plant a rain garden of native plants, shrubs & trees.
- Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater.
- Use pervious pavers for walkways.
- Use yard waste in mulch or compost for your garden.