

Utica
Spring 2018 Newsletter

Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution from Households

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the leading source for water quality degradation in the United States. Nonpoint source pollution is runoff from urban residences, agricultural fields, impervious surfaces, construction activity, and any other over land flow that enters our waterways while accumulating pollutants. Detrimental outcomes such as eutrophication, sedimentation, and contamination can severely affect aquatic and terrestrial habitat in addition to impact drinking water supplies.

There are several proactive measures a home owner can take to help reduce the amount of NPS pollutants entering local lakes, streams, and rivers. These preventive measures include:

- Keeping litter, pet waste, and lawn waste out of storm drains.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting vegetation.
- Immediately clean up any oil and grease spills when maintaining your vehicle.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly. Alternatives for chemicals and fertilizers include low phosphorous brands.
- Properly dispose of household chemicals, cleaners, paints, and other hazardous chemicals. Do not dump these harmful chemicals down your drain or any storm sewer.

For more information on nonpoint source pollution, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website at www.epa.gov.