

MINIMIZE USE OF FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS.

... *Protecting the environment, water quality and public health.*

We all live in a watershed. But, many of us do not know our "watershed address". A watershed is the area around our communities from which storm water drains to a specific waterway, which helps identify your "watershed address". A watershed includes yards, roadways, parks, farms, construction sites, streams, flood plains, etc. Our individual actions in the watershed directly affect the valuable downstream water resources in which the public water supply depends. Everyday activities around homes and businesses have an impact - - either good or bad - - on the watershed. Trash left in the watershed is a common problem in waterways - - both a pollutant to the water and an eyesore to the neighborhood.



Minimize the use of chemicals and apply fertilizers sparingly



Household Hazardous Waste Community Event

Over-use or improper use of fertilizer, pesticides and other chemicals in landscape activities is a major source of pollution for water resources. Excess use and improper disposal of other chemicals also can adversely affect the quality of water supplies. Greenbelts, floodplains, streams, riparian lands and wetlands provide a major defense against such pollutants by serving as natural filters. Preserving and protecting these natural pollution barriers is a high priority in preventing pollutants from entering the streams and waterways, thereby safeguarding the quality of water and public health.

A focus on organic products, materials and practices is an emerging trend that should add further protection for water quality and for public health. Organic practices are especially recommended around the home, around children, around pets, and wherever water resources could be impacted. Each community can help educate citizens about watershed protection and encourage sound practices that protect the natural waterways. Strong educational programs for schools and for the general public are vital. Possible themes for school or Public Information Programs: "Do you know your watershed address?" "If you don't want to drink it, keep it out of the watershed."