

10 Ways to Keep Our Lakes and Rivers Clean

clean

Of all the water on Earth, only 3% of it is fresh water. Even more astonishing is the fact that only 1% of Earth's fresh water is available for use. How we use water every day impacts the sustainability of our lakes and rivers, and ultimately our most precious resource – **water**.

Here's what you can do to make a difference:

1. Limit the number of chemicals you use for cleaning. White vinegar and baking soda can tackle most jobs and are much less expensive than commercial, chemical-laden cleaners.
2. Don't pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them down the toilet. Take chemicals to a local recycler to be disposed of properly.
3. Don't flush medication down the toilet. Ask your pharmacy if they have a program to dispose of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications.
4. Fix leaky faucets and running toilets. Not only will you be conserving water, but you could see a smaller water bill as well.
5. If you have a septic tank, ensure it's in good working condition on a regular basis.
6. Wash your car on the grass instead of the driveway or street to avoid runoff. Forget the chemicals and use white vinegar and water.
7. Keep chemicals and debris away from storm drains. Storm drains are meant for rain water. Keep grass clippings, sticks and runoff water away.
8. Limit your use of road salt in the winter months. The chloride is detrimental to our lakes and rivers. Potassium acetate is a good alternative.
9. Keep up on car repairs. If you notice oil spots, clean it up right away and get it fixed. You don't want the rain to carry the oil into the local waterways.
10. Pick up after your pets. Animal waste carries bacteria that can wash into storm drains when it rains.

These helpful tips help communities stay healthy and thriving.

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