

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP REDUCE POLLUTION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?



1. Join the Adopt-A-Stream program!

2. Landscape your home with conservation in mind:

- Use native plants (they require less maintenance).
- Cover bare spots in your yard with plants (prevents soil erosion)
- Test your soil to know the exact amount of fertilizer needed. (for help contact the VA Cooperative Extension at 703-792-7747 or master_gardener@pwccgov.org)
- Fertilize most grass in the fall and never fertilize right before a hard rain (or it will wash off into the storm drain/waterway.)
- Use earth-friendly fertilizers and pesticides.
- Use permeable surfaces (allow water to soak into ground) for paths and patios (wood, bricks, stones, mulch, sand)

3. Be a pooper-scooper (properly dispose of pet waste).

4. If you have a septic system, properly maintain it. (have it pumped out every 3—5 years)

5. Be conservation minded in the home:

- Use earth-friendly household cleaners and laundry products.
- **Don't** flush medications down the toilet! (dispose of them properly at the landfill -ask at the front gate).
- Use a commercial car wash (they treat or recycle wastewater) or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates the ground instead of running off into the storm drain.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- Recycle glass, aluminum, newspaper, mixed paper, metal, cardboard, and plastic (currently #1 and #2).
- Take household hazardous wastes to the local landfill for proper disposal.
- Purchase nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.

6. Buy a Chesapeake Bay license plate!



7. If you own a farm, use Best Management Practices to manage animal waste and soil erosion/soil quality. Contact our office (571-379-7514) for assistance.