

3 Major Pollutants

Soil



Rain washes soil into streams and rivers impairing the growth of plants which require sunlight for photosynthesis. Soil also clogs the gills of fish, causing them to suffocate. Too much soil is harmful to aquatic plant and wildlife. Common sources of "dirty" areas are erosion from construction sites, freshly plowed farm fields, stream banks, and even bare patches in lawns. Did you know that soil, by volume, is the #1 polluter to Ohio rivers, lakes, and streams?

Bacteria



While some bacteria is not harmful, the presence of certain types in your streams and rivers indicate that other germs and viruses may be in the water too. Major sources of these bacteria are combined sewer systems and animal waste runoff from farmland and city streets.

Nutrients



A major pollutant to streams and rivers, nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous can cause excessive algae growth. This algae steals oxygen from fish that need it to breathe. Main causes of algae growth in waters are fertilizer runoff, poorly maintained septic systems and wastewater treatment plants.

When WE get involved the SOLUTION to POLLUTION becomes achievable.

Kaylee Port
Bokes/Mill Technician
Union Soil and Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4, Suite B
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937)642-5871 x110



Tips o
help

S
to A



You Can Help Reduce Pollution!

Pollution has been a problem for a very long time. People in your community are doing lots of great things to keep our rivers and streams healthy, but they can't do it alone!

What steps do you take each day to keep your rivers and streams cleaner and healthier? Are you doing everything you can to stop pollution? Your actions can help make a difference.

By taking charge, being responsible and becoming accountable, WE become the solution. Together, WE can make pollution a problem of the past.

We forget that the water cycle and life cycle are one.

-Jacques Cousteau, Oceanographer

10 Easy Ways to Fight Pollution

1. Conserve Water

Conserving the water you use inside and outside your homes reduces the amount that needs treated.

2. Love a Natural Lawn

Ask your parents to convert grassed areas of the lawn to natural spaces. This reduces the need for fertilizers and provides habitat for birds and animals. It also saves you time on the weekend because there will be less mowing!

3. Create Compost

By creating a compost pile using yard and food wastes you're not only recycling, but you're helping to reduce the need for fertilizers in the garden.

4. Ride a Bike

Not only will you be helping yourself out, you're helping to fight pollution. By riding your bike to school or walking down the street pollutants from cars will be reduced. Convince your parents too! Maybe they'll even raise your allowance with the money they'd save on gas.

5. River of Words

ROW is a poetry contest that seeks to foster responsibility, imagination, and action in students and to publicly acknowledge their creativity and concerns.

Visit www.riverofwords.org for more information.

6. D

Storm drain water and
into these
right into
dump o
clippings
one

7. No

Batteries,
These ar
be dange
get wash
a local wa
how to
facilities
yo

8.

Ask abo
grams in y
part o
science
Scouts,

9

Knowledg
out every
shed you
ter come
help pro

1

After you
about s
word! W
presentati
could eve