

Water is a fundamental need for all organisms. Our Earth 's surface consists of 70% water but only 1% of that fresh water is accessible for human use.

Water is a substance that enhances ecological processes, sustains life, and is a critical component of the future of society. We as a community have a responsibility towards nature to ensure optimal water quality to secure a better future, not just for us but also for the natural world that surrounds us.



*Patapsco River*

Water quality is threatened by seemingly harmless everyday practices that we all engage in. By cutting down on these practices and spreading awareness we can ensure that the quality of our water is of a good standard.

## For more information contact the Howard County Office of Community Sustainability:

### About Us

Howard County's stormwater management program ensures that stormwater is treated and managed, and also maintains our storm drains, underground pipes, ponds, and streams.

The Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's streams and rivers continue to suffer from significant water quality problems caused by stormwater.

### Contact Us

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**LIVING GREEN IN YOUR OWN HOME:  
CONSERVING CLEAN WATER**

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Howard County and its community must work together to preserve, enhance and restore water quality. Here are some simple ways to improve water quality in your everyday life!

- 1) *Slow the flow:* to reduce the amount of runoff storm water, try to reduce contact with hard, impervious surfaces like driveways and sidewalks
- Try installing permeable paving around your home to control the flow of stormwater.



- 2) *Refrain from the drain:* only use storm drains for water and reduce water pollution by keeping out pet waste, grass clippings, motor oils, and other trash. Don't drain your swimming pool into storm drains or local waterways, instead away from such bodies of waters only after chlorine levels are under control.

- 3) *Stash the trash:* avoid harming the environment and paying a fine by minimizing littering and throwing away your trash appropriately.



- 4) *Landfill the pill:* Dangerous chemical from pills are hard to remove in wastewater treatment plants, so dispose of medication in your household trash.

- 5) *Enable the label:* follow fertilizer instructions to prevent over-fertilization and inhibit dangerous amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous from entering waterways.



- 6) *Quash the wash:* try and park your car on a grassy surface and use commercial car wash when washing.



- 7) *Scoop the poop:* Pet waste causes local waterways harm by delivering bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorous. Reduce this effect by disposing of pet waste with household trash.

- 8) *Conserve: Every drop counts!*
- Reducing the amount of water you waste can help the environment and save you money.
  - For example, taking shorter showers or turning the faucet off when you brush your teeth.

