



Arkansas Watershed  
Advisory Group

# 10

## EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STOP POLLUTION

1.



Recycle your used motor oil. Wal-Mart Tire & Lube Express, AutoZone, and most other service stations in your community accept used oil. **Never pour oil or automotive fluids down storm drain which flows directly into creeks, streams, or rivers.**

6.

Select water-based paints such as latex. Wash brushes in your sink with water. If using paint thinner, reuse and recycle it. **Don't pour any paint or toxic material down the storm drain.**



2.

Reduce auto emissions through regular auto maintenance, car pooling, and use of public transportation. Fix oil, transmission, and radiator leaks in your car.



**Leaking automotive fluids can wash off roads, driveways, and parking lots into creeks, streams, and rivers during rain showers.**

7.



Use pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other lawn chemicals sparingly. Never double the dose. **Follow the directions and do not apply if rain is forecasted.**

3.



Use garbage cans for your trash. Recycle reusable materials like cardboard, paper, plastic, and aluminum. **Don't throw trash and litter in the streets and ditches; it will wash into the creeks and rivers.**

8.

Go to a car wash or wash your car in the grass. **Don't wash grimy road dirt and soap down the driveway and into the storm drain.**



4.

Sweep the dirt from your sidewalk and driveway back into your yard with a broom. Pick up pet wastes and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. **Hosing dirt and pet wastes away flushes it directly into the storm drains and eventually into the creeks, streams, and rivers.**



9.



Collect grass clippings and leaves and start a compost pile. Compost makes excellent soil conditioner for flower beds and gardens and is a beneficial way to dispose of yard waste. **Never use storm drains, creeks or streams to dispose of yard wastes.**

5.



Dispose of any hazardous household chemicals at approved household hazardous waste collection sites. **Purchase "natural" products available for your home and garden.**

10.



Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped out every 3 years to remove sludge and scum. Practice water conservation to prevent overworking your system. **Repair or replace malfunctioning or outdated septic systems.**

**TAKE PRIDE IN THE WATER RESOURCES OF ARKANSAS; IT IS YOUR WATER.  
WATER POLLUTION IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM; WATER QUALITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

# Understanding Your Watershed

## What is a Watershed?

Water flows both over the surface of the land and through permeable soils underground in response to gravity. The term **watershed** refers to the geographic area where this flowing water is collected into a common waterbody. The waterbody could be a large river, small stream, a lake, or even a wetland.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some watersheds may only consist of a few acres of land, while others may cover thousands of miles. Land elevation determines the size of a watershed, with the highest points of elevation serving as boundary lines. Watersheds cross county, state, and national boundaries. No matter where you are or where you live, you are in a watershed!



## Major Watersheds of Arkansas



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