



Be RiverSmart And Keep Your River Healthy!

The water in your home once flowed in the river. The things we do around the house every day can affect our rivers and streams – the very water we drink. Remember, your rivers are closer than you think. Become “RiverSmart” by following these easy tips:

1. REPAIR LEAKY FAUCETS AND TOILETS

Leaky sinks and toilets can waste 50 gallons of water in one day, depleting our rivers. For a leaky faucet, look for a faulty o-ring or valve seat. Toilet leaks aren't always so obvious. Try pouring colored liquid into the tank. If after 15 minutes you see dye in the bowl, you may need to replace the flapper.



2. TURN OFF THE WATER WHEN BRUSHING YOUR TEETH OR WASHING DISHES

You can save 3-5 gallons a day. Fill up the sink when washing vegetables or doing a load of dishes. It's a small change that will make a big difference.



3. RUN WASHERS ONLY WHEN FULL

You can save nearly 300-800 gallons of water each month.

4. DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS SAFELY

Many cleaning products found in our homes and garages are too dangerous to be disposed of in the trash or down the drain. Anything labeled “Poison” or “Danger” should be taken to your local hazardous waste center. Use water-based paints and wipe off excess paint with a paper towel before rinsing your brush.



5. SWEEP THE DRIVEWAY INSTEAD OF RINSING IT

Running the hose for 15 minutes can use 150 gallons of water. Water run-off from our driveways or sidewalks carries contaminants, such as dirt, motor oil, fertilizers and animal wastes into our rivers.

6. INSTALL LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEADS AND WATER-SAVING TOILETS

An outdated showerhead wastes 20 gallons day or 7,300 gallons a year – per shower! An average family of four can save 14,000-17,000 gallons of water a year by installing high-efficiency showerheads.

7. FIX CAR LEAKS PROMPTLY

Leaky cars leave motor oil and other fluids on our streets and driveways. When it rains, these contaminants are washed into our rivers. Preventing polluted run-off will help keep our rivers and drinking water safe.



8. DISPOSE OF MOTOR OIL SAFELY

One quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of river water. Never pour leftover oil down a storm drain or into the trash – instead, drop it off at your local hazardous waste center.

9. WATER YARDS IN THE MORNING OR EVENING

Water evaporates quickly during the middle of the day. Lawns only need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Watering less creates deeper, stronger roots and a healthier lawn. You could try letting the lawn go brown, as nature intended during summer months. Another option is to plant native plants or incorporate xeriscaping techniques that require less water altogether.

10. STRIVE TO USE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Choose safer, multi-purpose cleaners labeled “environmentally friendly”. Avoid chlorine, phosphate products and solvents like paint thinner. Visit www.rivernetwork.org to find recipes for inexpensive, safe alternatives to make at home.

