

You are the Solution to Water Pollution

Stormwater runoff goes to the rivers and eventually becomes someone's drinking water

The flow of water does not obey your property lines. Water that flows onto and off of your land is part of a watershed that reaches a stream or river.

The water a child plays in one day could be your drinking water the next. Likewise, any water you use has an impact on the next community downstream



You can ensure the water that nourishes your land does not pollute the river it reaches.

Reduce Impervious Surfaces

Reduce runoff from roofs, driveways and patios. Try wooden decks, gravel or pervious asphalt driveways and mulched paths. Collect rainwater in rain barrels for later use in your garden. Add a "rain garden" to your yard. Once they're established they are fairly low maintenance. It's a great strategy for soil and stormwater alike.

It's easy to be a "green gardener".

Who To Contact

ALLEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR
WATER QUALITY

WWW.ACWATER.ORG

3718 NEW VISION DRIVE, FORT WAYNE, IN 46845

PHONE: 260-484-5848 EXT. 111

Composting a controlled way to break down organic matter. It can enhance soil texture, and the ability to absorb air and water. Compost also suppresses weed growth and reduces erosion.

Recipe for Compost

1 part "green"= fresh grass clippings, manure, garden plants, and fruit and vegetable scraps (no meat, dairy, or fat)

3 parts "brown"= dried leaves and plants, branches, and woody materials

Mix together and moisten and turn occasionally until dark and crumbly (several weeks to a year):

Use the compost around trees, shrubs, perennials, and house plants to deter weeds, improve soil structure and retain moisture.

Pet Waste in Compost?

In order to compost pet waste properly, the average temperature of the pile would have to be high enough to kill parasites and certain bacteria. The proximity of your compost heap to your neighbor and the nearest storm drain also make this less than ideal.



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GREEN LANDSCAPING

A Reference Guide for Residents



www.acwater.org

Test Your Soil

*Don't waste time and money!
 Test you soil for nutrients and pH to determine what kind of care your lawn and garden need.*

You can purchase a home test for soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium at a garden center or contact a commercial testing service if you would like more detailed or special tests.

Rain Gardens are yard-sized areas ideal for holding and processing stormwater. Using water-friendly plants, they also draw much of the nutrient-rich water deep into the soil.



For more information go to:
www.catchingrainfw.org or
www.allencounty.us/education-materials

Choose Native Plants

Native plants are well-suited to their area, requiring less water, fertilizer and pesticides than other species. Their lower maintenance and high conservation value make them a good choice for your yard.
Ask your local garden center for some native plant choices.

Use Biosolids & Compost

Biosolids can be applied as fertilizer. They are nutrient-rich organic materials, resulting from the wastewater treatment process. Applied to land before planting, they can provide nutrients vital to growth and reduce the chemical fertilizers needed.

Available at:

Biosolids, Lime, & Yard Waste Recycling
 5510 Lake Avenue 260-749-8040
 OPEN April-Nov M-Sat: 8am-6pm
 Sun: Noon-6pm
 Dec-March Mon-Fri: 8am-2pm
 Closed Holidays

National Serv-All
 6231 MacBeth Road 260-747-4117
 OPEN Mon-Fri: 8am-4pm
 Saturday: 8am- Noon
 Closed Sundays & Holidays

Yard-waste Composting Site guidelines

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Acceptable: | Unacceptable: |
| Garden Waste | Construction Debris |
| Leaves | Cement |
| Grass | Dirt |
| Prunings | Brush |
| Weeds | Fruit from Trees |
| Vines | Lumber |

Conserve Water

Less water means less chemical runoff and erosion.
 Water deeply to promote strong root growth, and water in the early morning to avoid evaporation.
 Rain barrel water is not only naturally softened and nutrient-rich, it is also **FREE**.
 Rain barrels also help to slow runoff from the rooftops to the rivers.



Questions?

Q: Is it best to rake my grass cuttings or let them sit?

A: Depending on the amount of residue, it is usually best to use a mulching mower. Mulch adds to the health of your soil and aids in water retention. If you have a lot of grass clippings, consider starting a compost pile ("recipe" on the back of brochure)

Q: Why is a mulching mower better than blowing or throwing the leaves away?

A: Mulching allows for the natural build-up of organic matter in your soil profile. This also allows any chemicals on your lawn to be used by your lawn rather than discarding them.

Q: I use a mulching mower but what do I do with the leaf waste on my lawn?

A: RECYCLE it at home. You need a certain amount of "brown" material in your compost pile. Any extra can be taken to a Yard waste compost site.