

## Clean Water is Important to All of Us

In recent years, sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced—that's great! Now the greatest source of water pollution (60 percent!) comes from everyday things like cars leaking oil; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; pet waste; residential car washing; and failing septic tanks. All these seemingly harmless sources add up to a BIG pollution problem. BUT each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

## Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us are responsible for keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean.

Your actions can help keep our water clean. Find out how and spread the word!



*For more information or to learn more about protecting our water, visit the links below or contact Erin Campbell at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.*

[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)  
[www.pollutionisntpretty.org](http://www.pollutionisntpretty.org)

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# POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.

Managing Pet Waste

## What's the problem with pet waste?

If we do not properly dispose of our furry friends' "little surprises," rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains and directly to the rivers. This waste then pollutes our waterways with harmful bacteria, creating a health risk to pets and people—especially children—and they can become very sick.

The waste produced by the dogs and cats in the Tri-County Region is about the same as what 50,000 people—equal to the population of East Lansing—would produce. Unless we all do our part and pick up after them, pet waste will enter our water with no treatment.

## Cleaning up after your pets is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Bring a bag
2. Clean it up
3. Dispose of waste



*Pet waste bag dispenser*



**Together we can stop water pollution at the source!**

## Help Keep Our Water Clean

- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently.
- Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or storm drain.
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard but keep it away from vegetable gardens!