

# POLLUTION

*Begins—And Ends—  
With You*



**1** Undisturbed areas absorb rainwater and recharge the groundwater supply. Natural vegetation holds soil in place, preventing sedimentation of waterbodies.

Paving an area prevents absorption of rainwater, increasing the potential for flooding and erosion of soil into waterbodies. **2**

**3** Zinc from aging pipes, gutters, and metal roofs leaches into rainwater and enters the environment, where it may harm aquatic life.

Asbestos and copper—both potential pollutants—leach into runoff from car and truck brake linings and worn pipes and fittings. **4**

**5** Lawn and garden fertilizers enter runoff and increase nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) in waterbodies. Excessive nutrients stimulate algae and aquatic weed growth, choking waterways and robbing fish of oxygen.

Waste from leaf and grass clippings, garbage, animal droppings, and other organic debris pollutes runoff. The decaying organics deplete oxygen levels in water and affect fish. **6**

**7** When used motor oil is disposed of improperly, for example, dumped into storm drains, it washes down to local waterways where oil harms fish and wildlife.

Trash thrown directly into lakes, streams, and wetlands is unsightly, may hurt aquatic life and may pollute the water as it decays. **8**

**9** Sediment accumulates in waterbodies from soil erosion and destroys feeding grounds for aquatic life, clogs fish gills, blocks light transmission, and increases water temperatures.

## EVERYDAY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

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