

## OUTSIDE

### More Ways To Be A Water Warrior!



■ Keep storm drains clean. Never pour anything down the storm drain – they lead directly to local streams and rivers. Check if your town offers a storm drain marking or “Adopt-a-Drain” program and consider volunteering.



■ Secure your trash! Cover outdoor trash bins to prevent wind or animals from spreading litter. If you see litter on the ground, pick it up – this small act will keep trash out of waterways.



■ Need a car wash? The best choice is a commercial car wash, where water is treated and recycled. If washing at home:

- Wash on grass and not a solid surface, like pavement.
- Use phosphate-free soap sparingly.
- Empty leftover soapy water down a sink drain, not into the street.



■ Maintain your vehicle. Regularly check for oil or fluid leaks. Use a drip pan when changing oil and recycle used fluids at an auto shop or gas station. Never pour motor oil, antifreeze, or other fluids into storm drains.



■ Don't be salty! In winter, shovel first – salt and other deicing products are ineffective on more than 3 inches of snow. Use deicers only as directed, focus on high traffic areas, and clean up any excess when finished.



■ Scoop the poop. Pick up after your pup and properly dispose of pet waste to avoid excess bacteria and contaminants entering the waterways.



■ Dispose of hazardous waste safely. Never pour paint, medications, or cleaning products down the drain. Participate in local hazardous waste collection or drug take back programs.



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### Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, host of the Delaware Estuary Program, leads collaborative, science-based efforts to improve the Delaware River and Bay, which covers portions of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

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### PROTECTING WATER QUALITY AROUND THE HOME



Do you want to help improve local streams and rivers?

You have the power to create a positive impact right at home.

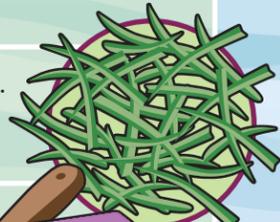
Small actions make a big impact!





## LAWN & GARDEN

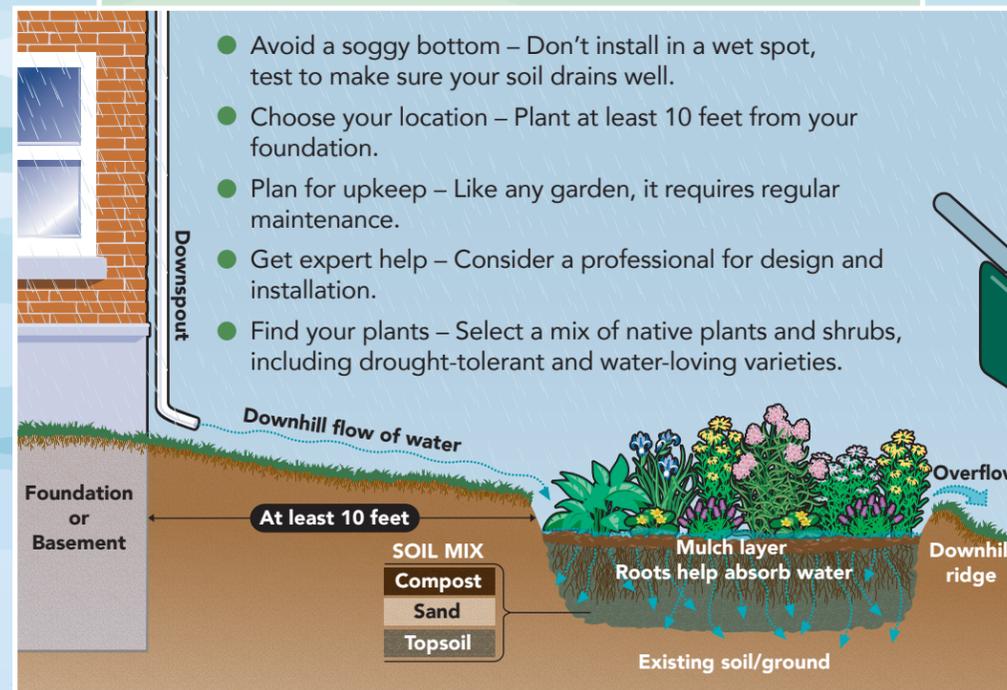
Reduce the chemicals that make their way into local waterways by:

- Using native plants and trees. They often require less water and fertilizer than nonnative plants, saving you time and money. 
- Choosing organic options over chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Apply chemicals sparingly, don't fertilize before a rainstorm, and clean up any excess that lands on paved surfaces. 
- Leaving your grass clippings. They act as free, natural, slow-release fertilizer. 
- Testing your soil – it is like a health checkup for your yard. Find out what nutrients your soil needs (if any) and what plants do best in it. Check with a lawn service or your local extension office for soil testing. 
- Leaving the leaves. Use them as free mulch and natural fertilizer instead of bagging them. 

## STORMWATER

Don't let that rain run away! The less water that runs off your property, the fewer pollutants end up in local waterways. Help improve local water quality by:

- Hooking up your downspout to a rain barrel or planter. When you store rainwater, you can use it to water your plants. 
- Reducing pavement, shrinking lawns, and planting more native trees and pollinator-friendly plants with deep roots to help absorb stormwater. No space? Pots or planters work too. 
- Installing a rain garden, a shallow, planted depression designed to absorb water, allowing it to soak into the soil. Follow these important tips!

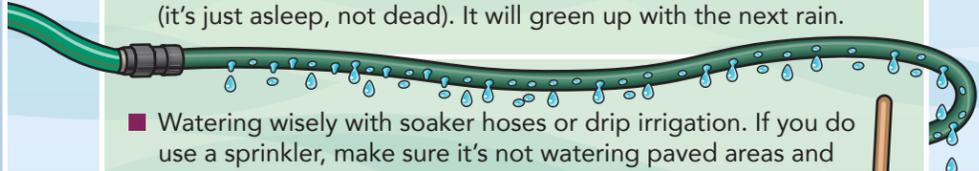


- Avoid a soggy bottom – Don't install in a wet spot, test to make sure your soil drains well.
- Choose your location – Plant at least 10 feet from your foundation.
- Plan for upkeep – Like any garden, it requires regular maintenance.
- Get expert help – Consider a professional for design and installation.
- Find your plants – Select a mix of native plants and shrubs, including drought-tolerant and water-loving varieties.



## WATER CONSERVATION

Less is more! Use less water so there is more to go around, and less that needs to be treated. Be a water saver by:

- Letting your lawn go brown! In our region, lawns typically get enough rain to stay healthy without extra watering. During dry spells or summer heat, don't be afraid to let grass turn brown (it's just asleep, not dead). It will green up with the next rain.
- Watering wisely with soaker hoses or drip irrigation. If you do use a sprinkler, make sure it's not watering paved areas and avoid watering on windy days or during the hottest part of the day when evaporation is highest. 
- Raising your mower blade. Set your lawn mower to at least 3 inches high. Taller grass shades the soil, promotes healthier root systems, and helps retain moisture – reducing the need for watering. 
- Sweeping, not spraying. Use a broom to clean sidewalks, driveways, and other paved surfaces, instead of a hose. This simple switch will save gallons of water. 