

# TENANT... LANDLORD... HOMEOWNER...

## ...ALL ARE AFFECTED BY WASTED WATER

Everyone is affected by our water-use habits. Whether you pay the rent or the mortgage, the amount of water consumed in your home will have a direct effect on your finances and your future.

*Think about your water-use habits. Make every drop count.*

### In the Bathroom:

Your toilet is the biggest water user in the house. It sends 1.6 to 5 gallons down the drain per flush.

*Think about water wasted before flushing tissues or spiders away.*

Your shower uses 2.5 gallons per minute. A ten-minute shower uses 25 gallons.

*Think about the water wasted if you are using extra shower time to wake up or warm up or practice a new song.*

Your bathtub uses as much water as you choose.

*Think about closing the tub drain before turning on the water and then filling the tub only half way.*

Your sink faucet uses about 2.5 gallons per minute.

*Think about turning the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.*



### In the Kitchen:

At the sink, *think about filling a basin for washing and rinsing dishes or washing vegetables* instead of letting the water run on.



At the garbage disposal, *think about using it as little as possible.* Organic refuse should be composted or bagged for garbage pickup rather than sent to the sewage treatment plant or septic system.



At the dishwasher, *think about running it only when full.*



### In the Laundry:

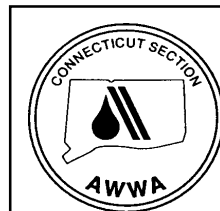
At the washing machine, *think about adjusting the water setting to match the amount of clothes being washed.*



### In the Driveway:

*Think about washing your car with a bucket rather than running a hose.* If possible, drive your vehicle onto the lawn so that all of the water can be absorbed into the soil.

Think about water leaks anywhere and report them to whoever is responsible for the building you live in or may be visiting. Leaking toilets and faucets waste water 24-hours a day and never fix themselves. The cost of not fixing a water leak will eventually be greater than the cost of the plumbing repair.



Provided by your utility professionals through the Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association, dedicated to providing clean, safe drinking water.

# USE WATER WISELY



## It Affects Everyone!

# POLLUTED RUNOFF... A Threat To Our Water



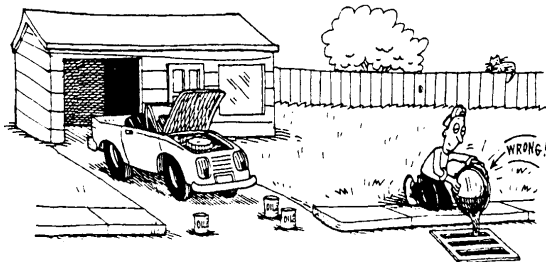
When thinking about water pollution, most people imagine a pipe from a factory that is pouring waste chemicals into a river. This type of pollution is considered “point source” pollution because it

can be traced back to a single point where it first contaminates the water.

These days, with stricter laws to protect the environment, most pollution enters our rivers, lakes and reservoirs, not from factory pipes but from storm runoff from places like streets and highways, golf courses and athletic fields, construction sites, farms, and neighborhoods like yours.

This type of pollution that can't be traced back to a single point because it actually comes from many points is known as “non-point source” pollution.

A wide variety of pollutants come from non-point sources, usually washed into nearby streams and storm drains during rain storms. These include pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, golf courses, playing fields, and farms; bacteria and other germs from pet and livestock manure and septic systems that aren't working properly; oil and fuel spilled on pavement or leaking from storage tanks; and mud and silt from construction excavation and farm plowing.



You can help reduce polluted runoff and protect public water supply sources.

Restrict the use of lawn chemicals, especially before heavy rains that may wash the chemicals off your lawn and into a storm drain.



Dispose of pet waste properly so that it does not wash into a nearby stream or storm drain. Dispose of litter boxes in the trash.

Have your septic tank inspected every two years and cleaned as needed. Have problems with your septic system repaired as soon as possible. For more information about septic system maintenance, refer to the Connecticut Sewage Disposal Association's *Guide to Septic Systems*.



Do not pour used motor oil into storm drains or onto the ground. Contact your town for proper disposal of household chemicals. Latex paints should be allowed to dry and disposed of in the trash.

Get involved in your community. Learn how to dispose of all refuse.

Ask your town to sponsor a household hazardous waste disposal day.

Ask your parks department to be weather-conscious when applying pesticides or fertilizers to your ball field.

Report muddy runoff from construction sites to the zoning or wetlands office in your town hall.

Additional information and materials on water quality may be obtained by contacting the following sources:

CT Department of Environmental Protection

Information (860) 424-3000  
Wetlands Management Section:  
(860) 424-3019  
Natural Resources Center:  
(860) 424-3540  
Lawn & Garden Chemicals & Pesticides:  
(860) 424-3369  
[//dep.state.ct.us](http://dep.state.ct.us)

CT Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Division:  
(860) 509-7333

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(800) 805-8313

UConn Cooperative Extension System  
Gardening: (203) 797-4376  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
(203) 974-8500

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline:  
(800) 426-4791  
[www.epa.gov/owm/landtips.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/landtips.htm)

