

# Our Actions Can Affect Michigan's Rivers

## Actions Affecting the Rivers

Maintaining lawns and gardens

Washing your automobile

Repairing your automobile

Caring for pets and other animals

Disconnecting/redirecting downspouts

Joining local watershed groups

Cleaning up debris, spills and leaks

Landscaping

Managing household hazardous waste

Installing and repairing plumbing

Installing driveways, walkways and patios

## Tips to Prevent Pollution

Keep fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. When choosing a fertilizer, select a slow-release formula.

Direct polluted wash water away from streets and storm drains. Wash your car on your lawn or, even better, go to a car wash that recycles wastewater.

Only repair vehicles in areas where leaks and spills cannot flow toward storm drains, or better – take it to a mechanic.

Clean up animal waste before it rains. Throw it in the trash (do not wrap in plastic) or flush it down your toilet.

Disconnect downspouts from sewer systems. Direct them into vegetated areas away from building foundations.

Join watershed groups and participate in river watches, storm drain stenciling or other neighborhood activities.

Do not use your hose as a broom. Do not wash or sweep debris, spilled or leaked materials into the storm drains.

Cover bare ground around vegetation with mulch and seed bare ground as soon as possible to reduce erosion.

Properly dispose of household hazardous waste and use non-toxic alternatives when possible.

Only connect plumbing in your home to the sanitary sewer.

Use paving materials that are porous and/or sloped toward vegetated areas.

