

## 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 residential car washing; cars leaking oil; fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens; pet waste; and failing septic systems. 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 play a role in keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters clean.

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



**GREATER LANSING  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**  
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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

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

[www.MyWatersheds.org](http://www.MyWatersheds.org)  
[www.PollutionIsntPretty.org](http://www.PollutionIsntPretty.org)

(517) 393-0342



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**POLLUTION  
ISN'T PRETTY.**

Responsible Car Washing

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# POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.

Lawn & Garden Care





## Calculate Roof Runoff

To estimate the amount of stormwater runoff your roof produces in a 1-inch rain event, take the square footage of your roof and multiply it by 623, then divide that number by 1,000.

Michigan's average yearly precipitation is 32 inches, meaning a 2,000 square foot home produces nearly 40,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each year! Driveways and decks add even more.

Capture and reuse some of this water by utilizing a rain barrel at your home. You can reduce your water bill during dry periods, prevent erosion from gutter downspouts, and help limit the amount of runoff that could otherwise transfer pollutants through the stormsewer system!



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Green Infrastructure at Home



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**GASOLINE  
WEED KILLER  
ROAD SALT  
NAIL POLISH  
FERTILIZER  
SEWAGE  
PET WASTE  
SOIL EROSION  
MOTOR OIL**



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Motor Oil Management



## Pet Waste Facts

- Just one gram of dog waste can contain as many as 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.
- The 90 million dogs in the United States produce over 10 million TONS of dog waste each year!
- The waste produced by the dogs and cats in the Tri-County area is about the same as what 50,000 people – roughly the population of East Lansing – would produce.
- Hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms, and salmonella can be spread by contact with infected dog waste.
- Due to the high-protein, highly processed diets of modern dogs, their waste can contain more bacteria and pathogens by weight than that of cows.
- If left on the ground, pet waste can be washed into storm drains, discharge into surface waters, and impair water quality.

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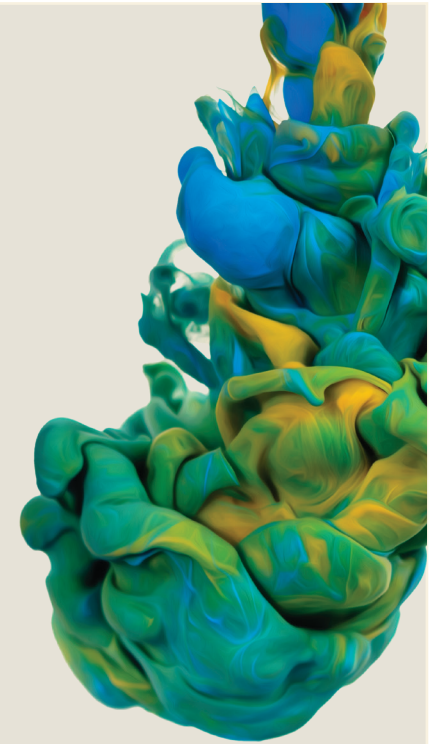
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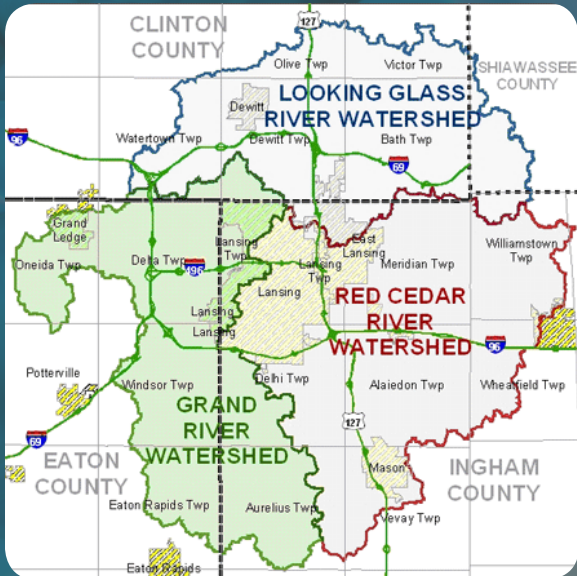
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Pet Waste Management

## Urban Watershed Areas

In the urban watershed area, storm drains (or catch basins) are designed to carry stormwater away from developed, highly impervious areas to prevent flooding. However, any pollutants on the ground (like motor oil, pet waste, and litter) can be picked up by stormwater runoff and drain into our waterways. This type of pollution is the number one water quality problem in the nation.

If you live in the Greater Lansing Region, you live in either the Red Cedar River, Looking Glass River, or Grand River urban watershed. You can help protect water quality by visiting [www.MyWatersheds.org](http://www.MyWatersheds.org) for more educational information and a calendar of local water-focused events!



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**DO YOU KNOW YOUR  
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We All Live In A Watershed.  
Help Protect Yours.