

Rain barrels collect rain water from your roof. Lawn and garden watering compose 40% of household water use during the summer. The stored water could be used to water the garden, lawn, wash the car and for other household uses especially during dry weather.

Rain barrels reduce pollutants from urban surfaces and the amount of water entering our storm drains.

To order a rain barrel visit www.mwrd.org



A Rain Garden is a shallow, constructed depression. It is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses.

Rain gardens:

- Filter runoff pollution
- Conserve water
- Protect local water sources
- Remove standing water in your yard, thus reducing mosquito breeding!
- Increase beneficial insect populations that eliminate pest insects.
- Create a habitat for birds and butterflies
- Survive drought seasons
- Reduce home flooding

For more information visit

www.raingardennetwork.com



Keep Lake Michigan Clean



Help prevent non-point source pollution



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



Evanston Water Division
555 Lincoln St
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www.cityofevanston.org

Pollution Contribution

Whether we are aware of it or not, we all contribute to non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution can be generated through activities such as walking the dog, fertilizing the lawn, changing motor oil and littering. During rainfalls or snowmelts these pollutants are carried into water sources like Lake Michigan.

Non-point source pollution is harmful to aquatic life and threatens water quality and quantity.

*"You're glumping the pond where the Humming-Fish hummed!
No more can they hum, for their gills are all gummed.
So I'm sending them off.
Oh, their future so dreary.
They walk on their fins and get woefully weary
In search of some water that isn't so smeary."
-The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss*



Help prevent Lake Michigan from becoming smeary!

Place garbage and pet wastes in garbage cans

Litter thrown in the street or down storm drains eventually flows into the lake. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can spread disease. Use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the garbage.

Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly

Fertilizers contain phosphates and nitrates, which promote algae growth. Too much algae growth, known as algae blooms, leads to fish kills! Follow the application directions carefully and do not apply if rain is forecasted. Organic non-petroleum based fertilizers are also a good option.

Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze.

These substances contain toxic materials which are harmful to humans and aquatic life. **Do not** hose them into the street where they may eventually reach the lake through the storm sewer system.



Recycle used motor oil and tires at local service stations.

Recycling is an environmentally healthy practice. You can be both environmentally friendly and help others. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County provides locations within Evanston and the surrounding communities where you can donate a wide range of items like eyeglasses and furniture. This site also provides locations where materials like motor oil, paint, batteries and packing peanuts can be recycled. For more detailed info visit: <http://www.swancc.org/pdfs/Green%20Pages/fullgreenpages07.pdf>

Help protect the environment by properly disposing of medications

Small amounts (parts per trillion) of pharmaceuticals have been detected in many water supplies, including some along Lake Michigan. To date, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not know the effects of exposure to the detected levels. The Evanston Water Division is currently in the process of testing its own water and will share the results with the public.

How can we protect our water?

•Follow your medication prescriber's instructions



•**Do not** flush or pour unused medications down a sink or drain.

•Bring your unused or expired medication to the City's Health and Human Services Department: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm. Medications will only be accepted if in labeled containers. Personal information can be blacked out with a felt tip pen.

Visit: www.cityofevanston.org/departments/publicworks/streets/medmercury.html

OR

•Properly dispose of the medication in household trash by following these guidelines:

1. Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid, crush it or add water to dissolve it.
2. Add kitty litter, sawdust, or coffee grounds to the plastic bag. This makes medications less appealing for pet and children to eat.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove all personal information from all medications containers before recycling or throwing them away.