

Make Your Home a “RiverSafe” Home

The RiverSafe Home Program gives you an opportunity to identify water quality protection activities that you do well and consistently around your home. It also provides an opportunity to commit to other proactive and “easy to do” pollution preventing activities that you may not have considered before.

Home Toxic

- Buy what you need – storing large containers promotes overuse and possible spills
- Follow directions on the label – more isn’t always better!!
- Choose a safer product – many less toxic alternative work well
- Dispose of all leftover or unused toxics at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility – contact the Washtenaw County Home Toxics Program at 734-222-3950 for more information
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Yard Care & Outdoor Housekeeping

- Soil test to see if you need to fertilize your lawn; for further information on soil testing contact the MSU extension center at 734-997-1678
- Mow the lawn between 2.5” and 3.5” high to save water, keep pests away and discourage weeds – allow clippings to remain on the lawn to act as fertilizer

Car & Vehicle Care

- Wash your car at a car wash if possible; all water and cleaning products are recycled and then go to the wastewater treatment plant
- If you wash your car at home, park it on the lawn, and use plain water – or at least a “safer” soap
- Repair all vehicles leaks immediately – even small amounts of petroleum products are a big threat to water quality

Pet & Urban Wildlife Waste

- If you walk your dog, carry plastic bags to pick up after your pet each time; dispose of the waste in the household trash
- Keep a lid secured on your trash container; wildlife is attracted to trash bins and also deposit their waste nearby
- Don’t leave pet food outside for extended periods or overnight to discourage wild animals from frequenting your property and then depositing waste

How to Become an Official “Riversafe” Home

If you find you already do (or would pledge to do) the items suggested above, go online at <http://drain.ewashtenaw.org> and complete the RiverSafe Home survey. Participants will receive a marker that they can proudly display in their home.