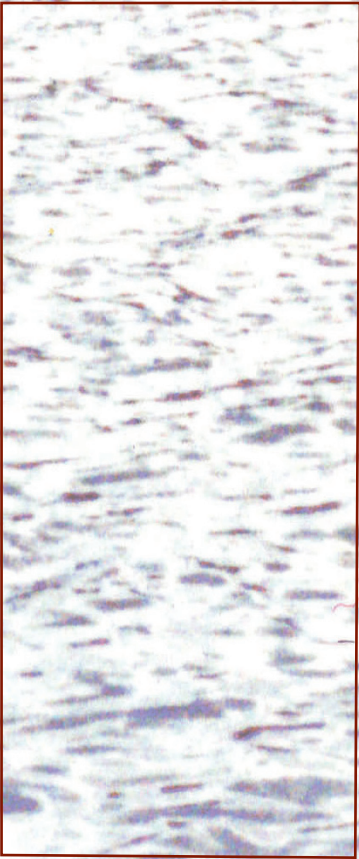


# Water Resource Protection Strategies for Citizens

1. Try to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Prevent excess fertilization and schedule applications to promote maximum uptake by target crops.
2. Hazardous household chemicals (paints, oil, varnishes, solvents, etc.) should never be poured down the drain. These chemicals can damage septic and sewer systems and contaminate both surface and groundwaters.
3. When feasible, underground fuel tanks should be removed or filled with inert material. New installations should avoid underground storage tanks whenever possible.
4. Maintain wells by checking casings and covers. Make sure they are not cracked or leaking. Abandoned, open wells are potential sources of contamination and represent a hazard to humans and animals.
5. Try to prevent erosion, especially during construction activities. Soil washed into waterways is a major source of phosphate input, causing harmful algal blooms.
6. If you own property adjacent to streams, ponds or wetlands, maintain a buffer zone of trees or shrubs along the shore. Don't cultivate a lawn up to the water's edge; this removes nutrients and maintains cooler water temperatures.



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