

# How can YOU help protect your water?

[www.tennesseewaterworks.com](http://www.tennesseewaterworks.com)  
[www.mtsu.edu/waterworks](http://www.mtsu.edu/waterworks)  
615-898-2660

Many people still think that water pollution comes from a specific source---called 'point source' pollution---like factories or sewage treatment plants---but the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that now **NPS--nonpoint source pollution--is the single biggest factor affecting water quality today.**

"Nonpoint source pollution" (NPS) occurs when water from storms picks up pollutants and deposits them away from the source of the pollution. This runoff finds its way into water sources, through storm drains or directly into streams, from which much of our drinking water comes. Typical nonpoint source pollutants in suburban areas are

- Household chemicals
- Yard waste
- Trash
- Salt and sand
- Excess nutrients (including lawn fertilizers, septic systems and pet wastes)
- Pesticides
- Cleaning agents
- Grease
- Auto products

The cost of this type of pollution is reflected in higher water bills, as drinking water coming from increasingly polluted sources is more expensive to treat.

What can you do? **Look inside for helpful hints.**

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## The Stormwater Quality Problem

Stormwater runoff is rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it will pick up dirt, debris, fuels, oils, and microscopic - sized compounds of metals such as lead and copper that are toxic to aquatic life. The contaminants are carried into the stormwater drainage system (street curbs, ditches, storm pipes) and from there to local



streams.

Storm drains lead to nearby streams or wetlands, not to the sewer. Whatever material washes off your property or off the streets and parking lots ends up in a tributary to the Stones River or the Stones River itself. Your neighbors fish and canoe in the river. The streams support aquatic life and fish that are an important part of the natural environment. And of utmost importance, the river is a source of our drinking water supply.



Please remember, *only rain down the drain.*

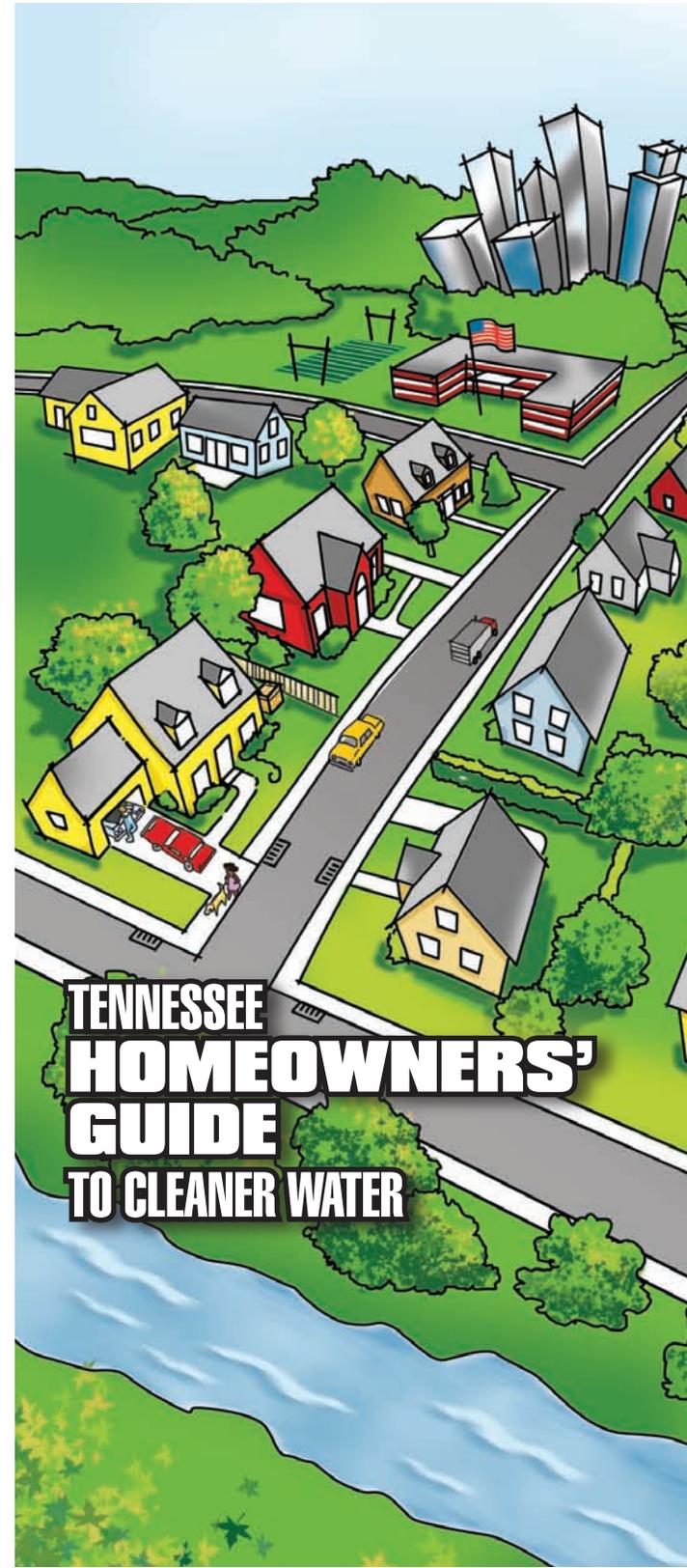


You may find information about Murfreesboro's streams and stormwater at the website or phone number below.

**To report a discharge of pollutants, or to learn about how you can label storm drains for pollution prevention, contact:**

**Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department**  
615-848-3200      615-893-1223 (after hours).

On the web, go to [www.murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov), then click on [City Departments](#), [Water and Sewer](#) and [Stormwater](#).



Have your septic tank pumped and septic system inspected regularly.

Check car for leaks and recycle used motor oil. Never pour it on the ground or into a storm drain.

Minimize pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Compost yard wastes—leaves and grass. Don't dump them in ditches or waterways.

Direct downspouts onto lawns and away from paved surfaces.

Plant grass or plants on the bare spots in your yard.

Follow directions on fertilizer labels and sweep off driveways, sidewalks, and roads so that the chemicals won't get into storm drains.

Pick up after your pet. Don't let pet waste wash into storm drains.

NEVER pour any kind of waste into storm drains.

**Clean water begins at home...**  
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