

3 WAYS to Protect Your Drinking Water

State data collected in water quality assessment reports reveals just how many surface drinking water sources (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams) are impaired by pollution and environmental factors.*



Lakes and Reservoirs –

over 1.2 million impaired acres.
That's almost the size of Delaware!



Rivers and streams –

over 111,000 impaired miles.
That's almost 4.5 laps around the Earth!

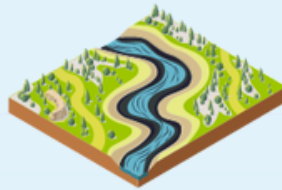
Think of all that water!

Many water utilities and organizations work tirelessly to protect water sources and provide safe drinking water, but there are many ways you can help too.



IN YOUR HOME

Limit pesticides and fertilizers used for lawn and yard care. When it rains, or if you overwater your lawn, these substances can travel through runoff and into your water source. Do not flush medications; doing so will bring them into the wastewater system and into the environment.



IN NEARBY HABITATS

Be mindful not to disturb vegetation or degrade the habitats surrounding waterways. They host many types of plants, trees, and other organisms that are critical to protecting and maintaining water quality.



AT A WATER SOURCE

Be aware of posted restrictions limiting swimming or recreational use, as they serve to protect your water quality. Pick up pet waste and throw away your trash to avoid potential water contamination.

**Learn More Ways to Protect
Drinking Water Sources**

