

# ***USE LAWN CHEMICALS WISELY***



## ***Improper Lawn Chemical Use Impacts Our Health***

Lawn chemicals are the fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides used in lawn and garden care. When improperly applied, these toxins run off into streams and waterways, harming wildlife and contaminating our drinking water.



Clean Water. Healthy Life.

## What's the Problem?

Overapplication of any lawn chemical can result in runoff that carries toxic levels of chemicals or excessive nutrients into lakes, streams and groundwater.

Many fertilizers can threaten our ecosystem and pose severe health risks for humans, pets, wildlife and aquatic organisms.

## What Can You Do?

- **FOLLOW FERTILIZER INSTRUCTIONS.**  
Read labels on lawn chemicals carefully and always apply products sparingly.
- **GO NATURAL.** Consider compost or natural lawn chemical alternatives. Composting creates natural, slow-release fertilizer and soil-enhancing material.
- **LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVE PLANTS.**  
Use plants that have deep roots and are naturally adapted to the climate and soil. Their natural properties eliminate or reduce the need for mowing, watering, fertilizers or pesticides.
- **BE AWARE WHERE YOU FERTILIZE.**  
Use caution on slopes and lawn edges so fertilizer will not wash into nearby storm sewers or waterways.
- **LET FERTILIZERS DRY PROPERLY.**  
Allow proper drying time for liquid chemicals, and never use lawn chemicals before a heavy rainfall is expected.



Regional Water Quality  
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