

Prepared By: Rensselaer County Economic Development and Planning for the Rensselaer County MS4 Communities: cities of Rensselaer & Troy, towns of Brunswick, East Greenbush, Nassau, North Greenbush, Poestenkill, Sand Lake, Schaghticoke, and Schodack and village of Castleton-on-Hudson.

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REMEMBER, you can make a difference one little action at a time.



Reducin' Pollution

**Hints for
Homeowners to
Save Money
while
Saving the Environment**





Test - Before fertilizing, test your soil. Whether fertilizing yourself or using a company, testing the soil ensures that fertilizers are used at the amounts needed. Fertilizing when you don't need to doesn't make your grass greener, just the lakes and streams near your property. An added plus is that you can save **\$\$\$\$** every time you don't need to fertilize! For those who use lawn care companies, make sure that they test, or you will be paying for something you don't need. Optimal PH 6.2-7.2 Contact Cooperative Extension for optimal nitrogen and phosphorus levels for your soils.



Calibrate - When fertilizing, calibrate your equipment to make sure that you are putting down the right amount. Putting down too little will make you need to go out and do it again. See the previous bullet about putting down too much. Also, keep a buffer around streams, lakes and rivers that's fertilizer free.



FREE!!! For lakefront property owners, recycle other's fertilizers. Use lake water (except Nassau Lake) to water your lawn once in the spring and in the fall. You'll use the nitrogen and phosphates from other's fertilizer, detergents and decaying leaves to fertilize your lawn and improve the water quality.



Lawn Clippings - Mulch them, compost them, or bag them. Don't dump them in the culvert, ditch, road, sidewalk or waterbody. They'll make a mess, as well as create the possibility of flooding and add nutrients to local lakes and streams.



STOP! Don't use pesticides unless you have pests. Pesticides are poisons. Unless you have pests, such as grubs, ants, and other destructive insects, don't use pesticides. Otherwise, you may poison yourself, your children and your pets. Along with fish, wildlife and other people. And always use and dispose of pesticides according to instructions.



PiNG - Maintain your engines. Cars, lawn mowers and even chain saws run better if they are properly maintained. Fix oil and other fluid leaks. Get a tune up. A properly functioning engine will save on gas, which will save you \$\$\$\$. Dispose your old oil at your local car repair shop instead of dumping it down the catch basin or in the back yard.



PHEW! What's that Smell??? Take care of Fido's droppings. Flush it down the toilet. Get a pet waste compost. It will keep you from stepping on it and keep fishes from swimming with it.



SQUISH - Seed that bare patch. Whether it's from insect infestation, construction or heavy foot traffic, bare soil can lead to erosion problems. Seed, mulch, or in the case of heavy foot traffic, put gravel or pavers down to cover the bare spots. It will also keep your shoes much cleaner.



FLUSH! Maintain that septic system. Have your septic tank pumped out regularly. Cost of septic system pumping - \$200 - \$400. Cost of replacing septic leach field - \$15,000 - \$20,000. And you won't have problems flushing or that annoying smell.



SPRAY! Wash that car in the lawn instead of on the paved driveway or roadway. The grass will absorb much of the chemicals being washed from your car, such as gasoline and oils. Use an environmentally friendly detergent. **OR**, take your car to a car wash that recycles and/or treats its wash water.



KEEP those trashcans tightly lidded and keep garbage from blowing into ditches and storm drains. Culverts and grates blocked by garbage are one of the most common reasons for local flooding.