

# Help Stop Pointless Pollution.

Be a Part of the Cleanup  
of the Waterways in the  
Tennessee Valley.

Clean water is important to all of us. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from sources like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. Each of us can do our part to help clean up our water.

## Why do we need clean water?

Clean water is important to our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. Everyone benefits from clean water.



This information is  
a part of the

**Decatur  
Clean Water ~  
Clean Environment**

Did we get your attention? *Good.*

We take contaminated stormwater runoff seriously because clean water IS everyone's business. In the interest of public health and safety, join in the effort to keep our waterways pure.



*A Grand City* on a CHARMING SCALE

402 Lee Street NE,  
Decatur, AL 35601  
[DecaturAlabamaUSA.com](http://DecaturAlabamaUSA.com)



Clean Water Partnership



Follow us for a  
better community.

CITY OF  
**DECATUR**  
PUBLIC WORKS

1802 Central Parkway,  
Decatur, AL 35601  
[DecaturAlabamaUSA.com](http://DecaturAlabamaUSA.com)

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[www.adem.state.al.us](http://www.adem.state.al.us)

When You're Fertilizing  
the Lawn, Remember...

**You're Not Just Fertilizing  
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## When You're Fertilizing the Lawn, Remember...

### You're Not Just Fertilizing Your Lawn.

You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain, and directly into our waterways. The nutrients encourage algae to grow, using up oxygen that fish need to survive and thrive. So, if you fertilize, please follow directions, and use sparingly.

#### What's the problem with fertilizer?

Fertilizer is not a problem when it is used correctly. In waterways, as in your yard, too much fertilizer can promote excessive algae and aquatic plants. This can harm water quality and make boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant.

For more information on soil testing, fertilizing alternatives and composting, call your County Cooperative Extension Agent or visit the Alabama Cooperative Extension System web site - [www.aces.edu/main](http://www.aces.edu/main).



## How can you apply fertilizers and help keep our waters clean?

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Follow the manufacturers instructions.
- Have your soil tested for fertilizer needs.
- Don't apply fertilizers before a rainstorm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers, since they release nutrients slowly.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using a garden composter. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer. Commercial compost and soil amendments may be available from your solid waste or wastewater utility as well as your local lawn and garden store.
- To safely dispose of leftover fertilizer, you may drop it off at no charge on the second Saturday of each month from 9 A.M. - noon at the Public Works Complex.