

What Can Do On World Water Monitoring Day!

Your watershed needs YOU!



World Water Monitoring Day is October 18th, the anniversary of the signing of the Federal Clean Water Act. On this day, people across the globe will join in monitoring their local waters. Take this opportunity to learn more about your watershed and get involved in monitoring and protecting it.

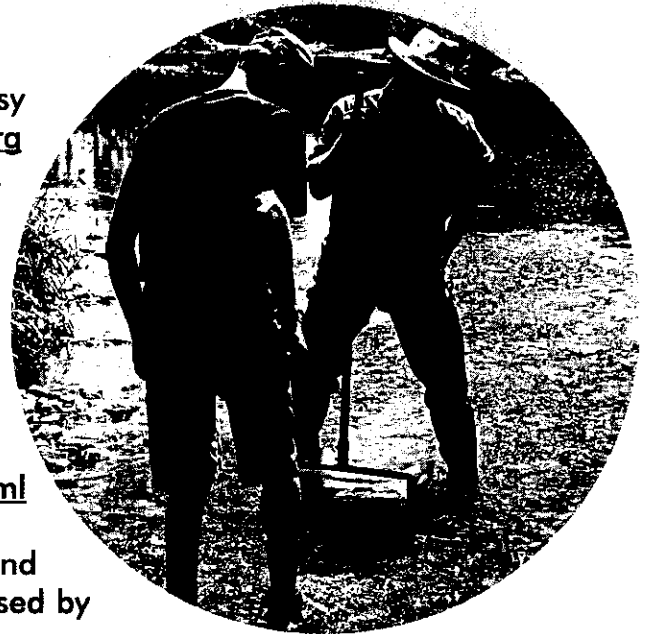
Learn about your watershed. A watershed is land that drains rain and snow to a stream, lake, wetland, bay, or the ocean. To learn more about your watershed, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Watershed Information Network at www.epa.gov/win.

Organize your own water monitoring or cleanup activity.

If you're new to water monitoring, you can order a simple, easy to use water testing kit from www.worldwatermonitoringday.org between July and October. Be sure to follow safety directions, register your site, and post your data on-line. For information on organizing a debris cleanup along a stream or along the shoreline of a lake or bay, visit www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/watershedpatch.pdf (p.38-39).

Learn more about water monitoring, and join up with local monitors.

Visit the U.S. EPA's national volunteer monitoring directory at www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/dir.html to find groups of volunteers in your area who are trained to monitor the condition of streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, and coastal waters. In many cases, volunteer-collected data are used by state and local governments.



Join a local watershed group and clean up debris, restore degraded habitat, and become a champion for clean water.

EPA maintains a database of watershed organizations nationwide. Visit this database at www.epa.gov/adopt, contact a group in your area, and get involved!

Organize a storm drain marking project in your neighborhood.

Storm drains carry runoff directly into streams, lakes and bays, and nothing should be dumped in them. Help others make the connection by labeling storm drains in your neighborhood. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormdrainmarking.





Talk to a local school class, ecology club, scout troop, or community group about water pollution.

Check with your local or state water quality agency for posters, brochures, or exhibit material you can use in making presentations. In addition, many educational materials are available on the Web. Here are some great Web sites to get you started:

- Water Environment Federation: www.wef.org/WefStudents/Teachers/index.jhtml
- USEPA: www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm
- USGS: www.water.usgs.gov/education.html

For more information on World Water Monitoring Day, visit www.worldwatermonitoringday.org

To learn more about watersheds, visit

www.epa.gov/owow/watersheds



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Office of Water
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What You Can Do To Help Your Watershed

In your home

- Don't let the water run! Fix leaks and install water-saving faucets and toilets.
- Choose environmentally-friendly household products.
- Properly maintain your septic system to prevent leaks from polluting nearby waters.

In your yard

- Use hardy native plants that need little water, fertilizers, or pesticides.
- Plant trees, gardens, or grass in bare spots to prevent erosion.
- Know plant and soil needs before applying garden chemicals.
- When replacing or installing decks, patios, driveways, or walkways, consider surfaces that allow rain to soak in.
- Direct down spouts away from paved surfaces and storm drains, and toward grassy areas.

In your community

- Don't dump used oil or antifreeze into the storm drain or street. Recycle them!
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste properly.
- Tune up your car and check for leaks. Try walking, biking, and using mass transit.
- Use a car wash instead of washing your car yourself. Dirt, oil, and suds don't belong in storm drains.
- Report spills and other water quality problems to your local or state environmental agency.

Get involved in your watershed. Your watershed needs !