












HELP PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES!

 The Great Lakes belong to everyone, and everyone is responsible for keeping  them clean.  It's simple. Never dump oil in your backyard or storm sewer and never pour  paint thinner down your drain. Conserve electricity to help reduce the mercury that comes from coal-burning power plants.  Prevent products with hazardous ingredients from traveling through our rainwater,  groundwater, and rivers and streams. Use this brochure to help protect our  Great Lakes! These small acts—and many others—can have a tremendous effect on our clean  waters. You see, water in the states surrounding the Great Lakes can drain  into those lakes. Whether it is rainwater cleansing our air and land, groundwater seeping through our  and bedrock, or rivers and streams, all of this water can eventually flow into  one place, the Great Lakes!





PREVENT POLLUTION AND PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES!

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES

What do the following activities have in common: conserving energy, reducing runoff, using care with household products, and getting involved? All are steps you can take to help protect our Great Lakes. These small steps, taken together, will have a large impact.



CONSERVE ENERGY

Much of the electricity generated in the Great Lakes basin comes from the burning of fossil fuels, particularly coal. While coal is an efficient, American-made energy source, it naturally contains trace chemicals such as mercury. When a power plant burns coal, mercury is emitted into the air. This toxic substance then falls with rain and snow in the Great Lakes basin, where it accumulates in the food chain and eventually causes damage to fish, birds, and even people.

Power plants are only one of the many mercury sources in the Great Lakes. Others include natural sources, improperly disposed of fluorescent bulbs, and garbage incineration. In addition to making sure you dispose of mercury-containing products properly, you can help keep mercury out of our Great Lakes by reducing the amount of electricity you use.



REDUCE RUNOFF

Some of the pollution that gets into the Great Lakes comes from materials that "runoff" lawns, sidewalks, and streets and wash into storm drains and streams when it rains or snows. Lawn fertilizers, pet wastes, and leaves in the gutter can contribute too many nutrients to the lakes when they become part of the "runoff." You can help prevent pollution from "runoff" by carefully applying fertilizers and pesticides (if you choose to use them, do not spread on sidewalks and driveways), properly disposing of pet wastes, and keeping grass and leaves out of gutters.



BE CAREFUL WITH HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

If you're like many people, you own a variety of household products that line the shelves of your home - in your bathroom, kitchen, workshop and garage.

Some of these household products may require special consideration in their use, storage, and disposal. Such products tend to fall in the following categories:

- Home maintenance
- Lawn and garden care
- Hobbies and crafts
- Automotive maintenance
- Health and beauty aids



REDUCTION AS A FIRST CHOICE

You can reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home and eliminate what you throw away by following these easy steps:



1. BEFORE YOU BUY:

- Read the labels and be aware of what they mean.
- Watch for products that contain these label signal words which may indicate a need for special handling or disposal:

CAUTION	CORROSIVE	DANGER
EXPLOSIVE	FLAMMABLE	POISON
TOXIC	VOLATILE	WARNING

- Select a product suited for the job at hand.
- Buy only what you can use entirely.

2. AFTER YOU BUY:

- Read the labels carefully and follow directions for use.
- Use the recommended amounts; more is not necessarily better.
- Store properly and keep in original container with readable labels.
- Use child-resistant closures and keep them on tightly.
- Share what you can't use with a friend or neighbor.
- Recycle/Dispose of empty container properly.

HANDLE AND DISPOSE OF PROPERLY

Each of us should take responsibility to properly handle and dispose of products that are no longer usable or wanted. When products with hazardous materials are disposed of improperly, they may become a hazard to others or contaminate our water. If poured on the ground, hazardous materials can filter through the soil and enter our groundwater, rivers, and eventually, the Great Lakes. Waste poured directly into storm sewers has an even more direct route to our clean water supply. Products labeled Flammable or Poisonous should not be poured down the drain or toilet.

Some of these products should be saved and taken to a local or regional household hazardous waste collection site. Others, such as motor oil and antifreeze can be recycled. Paint can be shared in a product exchange. For more information, use the contact list on the following page.

SOME EASY WAYS TO REDUCE ELECTRICAL USE IN YOUR HOME

- Turn off lights when they're not needed.
- Replace burned-out incandescent light bulbs with "compact fluorescent" bulbs - they use 1/3 the electricity and last ten times as long!
- Insulate your house well if you have electric heat.
- Use hand powered tools and appliances.
- Buy energy efficient appliances when buying new ones.



GET INVOLVED!

Not only can you help the Great Lakes at home but you can join with others in your community. Here are a few ways:

• BEACH CLEANUPS

Many local citizen groups sponsor annual shoreline cleanups. Find out about the next cleanup, or organize one yourself.

• LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

If you're concerned about your Great Lake, you're not alone. Local groups can be a good source of information and a good way to get involved in keeping your lake clean.

For more information on how you can help keep your Great Lake clean, contact these local agencies.

MINNESOTA

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
2626 Courtland St. • Duluth, MN 55806
Garbage Hotline (218) 722-0761

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Northeast Regional Office
320 W. 2nd St. • Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4660

WISCONSIN—NORTHWEST

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
—Superior Subarea Office Hazardous Waste Specialist
1705 Tower Ave. • Superior, WI 54880
(715) 392-7988

WISCONSIN—LAKE MICHIGAN

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
—Lake Michigan District
1125 N. Military Ave. • P.O. Box 10448
Green Bay, WI 54307
(414) 492-5800
—Southeast District
2300 N. Martin Luther King Dr. • P.O. Box 12436
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 263-8570

MICHIGAN—UPPER PENINSULA

Michigan Technological University
Regional GEM Center
1400 Townsend Dr. • Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 487-3341

MICHIGAN—LOWER PENINSULA

Michigan Office of Waste Reduction Services
116 W. Allegan • Lansing, MI 48933
(800) 662-9278

ILLINOIS

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Great Lakes Program
2200 Churchill Rd. #34 • Springfield, IL 62794
(217) 782-1696

INDIANA

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Northwest Regional Office
405 N. Broadway • Gary, IN 46402
(219) 881-6712

GREAT LAKES

United States Environmental Protection Agency
—Office of Solid Waste
77 W. Jackson Blvd. • Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-3584
—Great Lakes National Program Office
(312) 353-2117

• AREAS OF CONCERN (AOCs)

The International Joint Commission has targeted four areas in Lake Superior and ten areas in Lake Michigan for special attention. Each AOC is developing a Remedial Action Plan. Citizens are directly involved in planning clean-up of those targeted areas.

Lake Superior AOCs include St. Louis Bay, Torch Lake, Deer Lake-Carp Creek and St. Mary's River.

Lake Michigan AOCs include Manistique River, Menominee River, Southern Green Bay, Sheboygan River, Milwaukee Estuary, Waukegon Harbor, Grand Calumet River, Kalamazoo River, Muskegon Lake and White Lake.













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SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES

Use latex paint instead of oil-based paint where appropriate • Fix the oil leak in your car—don't let it drip on the ground  Use durable and reusable products like cloth napkins whenever possible • Read household product labels and use according to directions  Use low-flow faucets and showerheads • Share Lake-saving ideas with family, friends and coworkers  Turn off the water while you brush your teeth • Let your lawn and garden grow naturally • Teach your family that the Great Lakes are a precious resource  Turn off lights when not in use • Take advantage of household hazardous waste collection programs • Support businesses and organizations that protect the Great Lakes • Consider organically-grown produce and grains  Drive your car less—ride a bike, carpool and use mass transit  Choose appropriate products for the task at hand • Bring your used oil to a collection center or service station for recycling • Run your washing machine only when you have a full load  Use compact fluorescent light bulbs, then recycle them  Get to know your Great Lake—go for a walk on the beach • Consider unbleached coffee filters • Spread the word about the importance of keeping our Great Lakes clean • Use alkaline rechargeable or low-mercury batteries • Use water-based markers • Choose products packaged in recycled and recyclable materials • Plant a tree  Teach your children about environmental issues • Learn more.  Ask for more information from your local environmental office.

