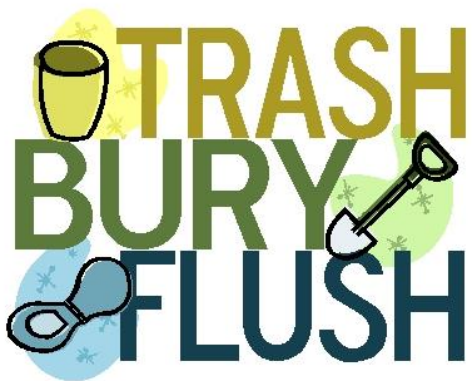


Simple Strategies to Water Pollution Prevention

Pet Owners *Can* Make a Difference

You can have an impact on water quality in local rivers, streams and ditches if you properly dispose of your pet waste. Leaving pet waste where it can enter storm drains means that it will be carried to local streams – streams that are the source our drinking water and the drinking water for downstream communities. That waste adds to the pollution load in our streams and contributes to poor water quality because it contains nutrients that will speed up the growth of nuisance algae. It may also contain harmful bacteria, viruses and diseases. And the organic material associated with pet waste robs our streams of oxygen as it decomposes.



Protect local streams by disposing of pet waste in the following manner:

Whether scooping the poop while walking your dog or removing pet waste from your own yard, there are three basic approaches to disposal:



Place the pet waste, bagged or not, in your regular trash receptacle. Never dispose of it in a storm drain.



Bury unbagged waste at least 5 inches below the soil's surface or install and use a pet waste digestion system in your yard, following the manufacturer's specifications. Compost pet waste - always taking care to protect yourself and others from associated bacterial risks by following strict compost guidelines.



Just like human waste, unbagged pet waste can be disposed of through your household toilet. Never flush the entire contents of a kitty litter tray.

For more information on protecting water resources contact Allen Soil and Water Conservation District at 419-223-0040 x3.