

**FIVE WAYS
YOU
CAN HELP
IMPROVE
WATER QUALITY
IN
THE
FOX RIVER**

**HAUL AWAY HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE.**

*Never dump it down the drain – take it to a *Household Hazardous Waste Collection site.* Household hazardous waste is found under sinks, in basements or in garages -- oil-based paints, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, used motor oil, old gasoline, drain cleaners, solvents, antifreeze, and lawn and pool chemicals. Limit the purchase of these products and dispose of unused products properly.

*Household Hazardous Waste Collection — Call Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at 217-785-8604 for dates and locations.

SAY “NO” TO PHOSPHATES.

Choose laundry and cleaning products that clearly state “No Phosphates” or “Phosphate Free.” An overload of phosphates in river water cause excess algae growth. As algae decays, it uses large amounts of dissolved oxygen. If dissolved oxygen levels drop too low, fish will die.

LIMIT LAWN FERTILIZER.

Use lawn fertilizer sparing. Always apply fertilizer after it has rained. Better yet, learn how to maintain a lawn without chemicals. Nitrogen in lawn fertilizer greens up lawns, and it greens up rivers too. Like phosphates, excess nitrogen feeds algae and promotes excess algae growth. As the algae dies, it robs river water of dissolved oxygen needed by aquatic life.

PROMPTLY PICK UP PET POOP.

Pick up pet droppings promptly after they have been passed. Rainfall mixes with pet poop and creates polluted stormwater. The untreated stormwater rushes to the river after a heavy rainfall and causes pollution.

DON'T FLUSH MEDICINE.

*Never flush unused, unneeded, or expired medicines down the toilet – take it to a *Household Hazardous Waste Collection site.* As an alternative, dispose of medicines in the trash. Take medicines out of their original container, mix them with an undesirable substance (used coffee grounds or kitty litter), put them in impermeable non-descript containers (empty cans or sealable bags) and throw them in the trash.

Clean water? Act!

