



## Things to Think About

1. Rain and snowmelt that wash off the land may flow directly into streams, lakes, and other waterways. They may also flow into storm drains, which, in most U.S. communities, connect to pipes that empty into waterways.
2. In most areas of the country, whatever goes down people's toilets and drains travels to a sewage treatment plant.
3. Gas stations store gasoline in underground tanks
4. Thick, green lawns often get that way by being treated with chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
5. Sewage treatment plants treat wastewater to remove many of the pollutants in it, such as disease-causing organisms and food waste. Then they dump the treated water into rivers, streams, and other waterways.
6. Most sewage treatment plants can't remove all of the phosphates that are in wastewater.
7. Gasoline storage tanks often develop leaks after about 20 years.

8. To repair or replace leaking gasoline storage tanks, someone must dig up the tank.
9. Fertilizers, road salt, animal waste, car fluids, and other materials that wash into waterways can poison aquatic plants and animals, decrease the amount of oxygen in the water, or create other problems.
10. When substances soak through the soil, they can contaminate groundwater.
11. Many powdered laundry soaps in the United States contain some phosphates.
12. Crops grown with a lot of pesticides often look "perfect".
13. Phosphates and other chemicals that end up in waterways can cause problems for aquatic organisms.
14. Pesticides that are used to kill insects and other pests can wash into waterways and poison fish and other creatures.

*From Ranger Rick's NatureScope—Pollution: Problems and Solutions, National Wildlife Federation.*