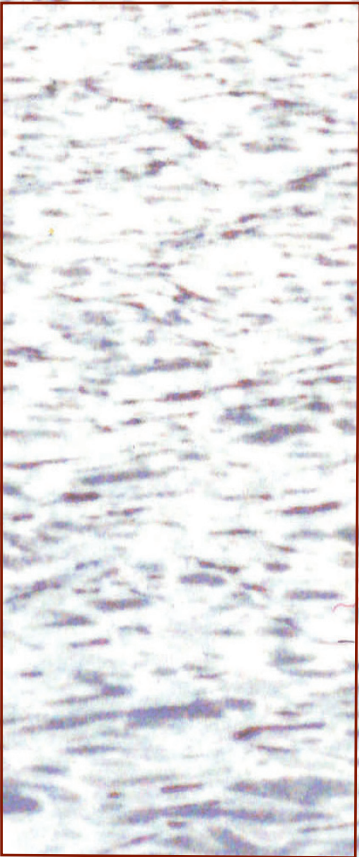


# Water Resource Protection Strategies for Citizens

- 1. Try to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Prevent excess fertilization and schedule applications to promote maximum uptake by target crops.
- 2. Hazardous household chemicals (paints, oil, varnishes, solvents, etc.) should never be poured down the drain. These chemicals can damage septic and sewer systems and contaminate both surface and groundwaters.
- 3. When feasible, underground fuel tanks should be removed or filled with inert material. New installations should avoid underground storage tanks whenever possible.
- 4. Maintain wells by checking casings and covers. Make sure they are not cracked or leaking. Abandoned, open wells are potential sources of contamination and represent a hazard to humans and animals.
- 5. Try to prevent erosion, especially during construction activities. Soil washed into waterways is a major source of phosphate input, causing harmful algal blooms.
- 6. If you own property adjacent to streams, ponds or wetlands, maintain a buffer zone of trees or shrubs along the shore. Don't cultivate a lawn up to the water's edge; this removes nutrients and maintains cooler water temperatures.

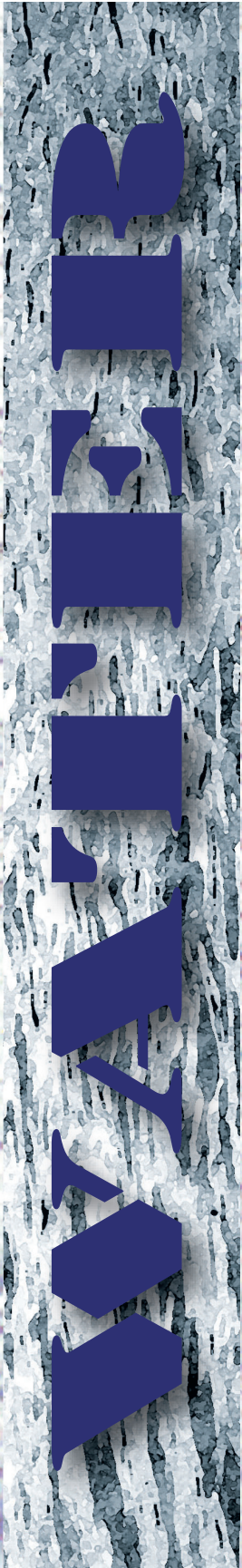


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