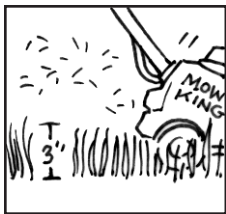


More Ideas for Around Your Home:



- Mow often enough to leave grass clippings on the lawn. Mow the lawn high – at least three inches. Alternatively, use clippings as mulch or compost them along with leaves that might otherwise end up fertilizing local waters.



- Keep fallen leaves out of the street-side gutter or swale. Consider using a “mulching” mower and using the mulch around the yard.

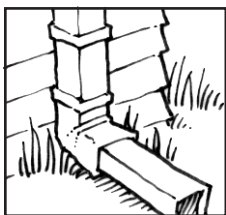


- Plant that extra tree for many environmental benefits, especially where it becomes part of a planting bed or “naturalized” landscape area that recycles leaves, twigs, and other yard “wastes.”

- Consider native plants when planning landscaping purchases.



- Seed bare soil and cover it with a mulch as soon as possible to minimize erosion. Disturb no more soil than necessary for a project and consider native grown covers instead of lawn turf while preserving existing vegetation.



- Direct roof downspouts away from foundations and driveways to planting beds or lawns where water can safely soak into the ground. Consider using a rain barrel if practical.



- Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully and sparingly. Pesticides, including weed killers, should be considered as a last resort – use other, more natural controls first.

- Limit the use of toxic or hazardous products in general, especially keeping them away from storm drains, lakes and streams.



- Collect used oil and other automotive products for recycling.



- Wash cars on the lawn, where cleaning products can't quickly run toward the nearest storm sewer, picking up other pollutants as they go. Wash your car with plain water.

- Keep cars and equipment tuned up and in good operating condition. Check for drips and repair leaks immediately to keep nuisance oils and fluids off pavement.



- For waterfront property, grow a “buffer strip” of dense, natural vegetation along the water's edge as a last defense to filter pollutants from the water and stabilize the shoreline.

- If using a septic tank system, maintain it properly through regular professional inspections and licensed pumping.



- Plan your landscape with environmental health in mind, reducing the area that requires extensive maintenance.



- Clean up pet wastes. Otherwise, nutrients and bacteria could be washed into lakes and streams.

- Use deicers conservatively in winter.



- Contract services who agree to provide maintenance services in keeping with water quality protection practices.

GETTING HELP

Washtenaw County Water Resources
 Commissioner's Office (734) 222-6833
 (734) 222-6813

Washtenaw County MSU Extension (734) 997-1678

Ann Arbor City Parks Natural
 Areas Preservation Program (734) 996-3266

MDNR website: www.michigan.gov/dnr