

Why Be Freshwater Friendly?



Be Freshwater Friendly is a campaign to help educate the Upstate on how small changes to our day-to-day actions

can have a great impact in our local rivers, lakes and streams. Being friendly to freshwater sources will protect aquatic wildlife, provide clean water for drinking and recreational use, and preserve our watershed for the long-term.

Nitrogen - N and Phosphorus - P (also referred to as nutrients) are natural elements in the environment that are essential for plant and animal growth, maintenance and reproduction. However, the contamination of water by too much N and P is a growing concern in the United States. Excess N and P can degrade our water sources, and cause harmful environmental problems, like algae blooms and hypoxia.

Fecal bacteria are another pollutant we need to reduce in our waterways. In addition to the possible health risk associated with the presence of elevated levels of fecal bacteria, it can also cause cloudy water, unpleasant odors, and an increased oxygen demand.

As a community, we can help prevent fecal and nutrient pollution, both by what we pour down the drain and by how we reduce rain run-off. Everything we do can impact our rivers, lakes and streams.



This educational brochure is brought to you by



ReWa is the local wastewater treatment provider for Greenville County, and parts of Anderson, Laurens, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties. Our goal is to promote a cleaner environment and protect the public health and water quality of the Upstate waterways, while providing and developing the necessary sewer infrastructure for growth.

We promote a variety of public education campaigns that aim to increase awareness of how our day-to-day behaviors can directly impact the local water environments in the Upstate.

CHECK US OUT!

www.ReWaOnline.org

www.ARiverRemedy.org

www.FreshwaterFreddie.org



Small Changes. Great Impact.



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In the Upstate, we are fortunate to start with a pristine water source. Everything we do can impact our neighbors downstream for better or worse. Check out our suggestions for how you can Be Freshwater Friendly with your day-to-day actions.

Green Your Grass, not Your Lakes

Yard Savvy

Lawn fertilizers contain Nitrogen and Phosphorus as major ingredients to help lawn growth. When you are maintaining your lawn and garden, start by testing the soil. You may find you don't even need additional nutrients.

Save your time and your water environment:

- Get your soil tested to see what your lawn needs before applying
- Fertilizer bags list nutrients as Nitrogen – Phosphorus – Potassium (N-P-K)
- Look for options with low Nitrogen and Phosphorus numbers

It's all About the Fine Print

Label Wise

Many common products, like paints, pesticides and personal care products contain Nitrogen and Phosphorus. While everyone needs to use these types of items, you can help by reducing the amount you use each time, and by not disposing of excess product down the drain. **Save your water environment:**

- Check the back labels of products for "phosphate" or some variation when shopping
- Use or save extra latex or acrylic paint, or solidify with kitty litter before throwing in trash
- Dispose of oil-based paints and pesticides on Hazardous Waste Collection Days

It's Everybody's Business

Poop Etiquette

Pet waste is not something people typically think of as pollution, but unscooped waste is washed by rain into our rivers, lakes, and streams. Pet waste contributes Nitrogen, Phosphorus, parasites, and fecal bacteria to water bodies. **Save your lawn, shoes and water environment:**

- Don't walk your dog near creeks or streams
- Use a plastic bag to scoop the poop
- Throw the bagged waste in the trash

Maintain & Sustain

Septic Smarts

When septic tanks are properly designed and maintained, they can be effective without polluting the environment. Where most septic tanks fail and become a major source of pollution, like with Phosphorus and fecal bacteria, is when they are not regularly inspected and pumped. **Save your backyard and your environment:**

- Inspect your system annually
- Pump out every 3-5 years
- Don't use septic system additives