

WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED

Here's what you can do to help protect your watershed.

Service your septic system. Have your septic tank pumped and septic system inspected regularly – usually every 3-5 years.

Clean up after your pets. Animal waste may contain harmful organisms such as Giardia, Salmonella, and E. coli.

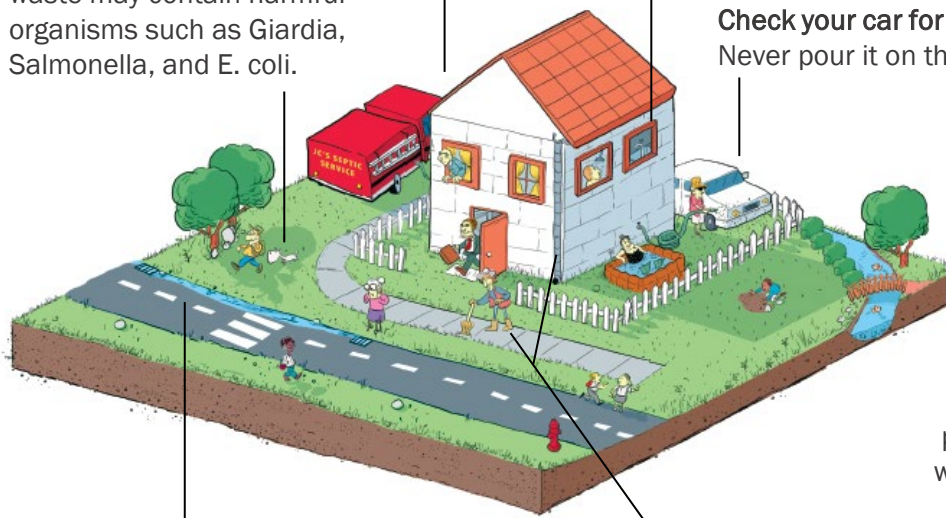
Select non- or less toxic household cleaning products. Use phosphate-free detergents & natural cleaning products.

Use commercial car washes. If you wash your vehicle at home, park it on the grass first, so that the detergent doesn't run off into storm drains. **Check your car for leaks and recycle used motor oil.** Never pour it on the ground or into a storm drain.

Properly dispose of household chemicals. Never pour chemicals or oil down the drain, toilet, storm drains or on the ground. Dispose of pharmaceuticals, vehicle batteries, household chemicals, oils, and paints at proper waste collection sites.

Prevent chemicals from reaching storm drains. Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of using a hose. Direct downspouts onto lawns and away from paved surfaces (or add a rain barrel to save water for later use).

Buffer streams. Have a stream on your property? Provide a natural buffer of native trees, shrubs and plants along its banks to filter storm water runoff. Plant grass on the bare spots in your yard.



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American Water has received more than 150 water quality awards from state and federal regulators and industry organizations for compliance with water quality standards.

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Drinking Water Source Protection

At Indiana American Water, we are dedicated to preserving our water resources to ensure a safe water supply now and in the future. Part of that commitment is educating residents across the state on where drinking water comes from and what we can all do to protect it from contamination.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land contributing water to the supply of a river or lake. As water travels over land surfaces toward rivers, streams and other bodies of water, it picks up various types of contaminants and pollution as it comes into contact with lawns, farmland and hard surfaces in more urban areas. These contaminants can pose a danger to public water supplies and also to fish, birds and other wildlife.

Where does my drinking water come from?

In several communities, including Muncie, Kokomo and Richmond, we use both surface water and ground water sources to meet customer needs. In our Northwest Indiana Operations area, we treat water from Lake Michigan, one of the best and most plentiful fresh water sources in the world, to serve nearly a quarter of a million residents. In the remaining communities, we use ground water exclusively as a water source.

How does Indiana American Water protect its water sources?

In communities where ground water is used, Indiana American Water works with local wellhead protection teams to manage and protect wellfields from potential contamination. These teams bring interested citizen volunteers together to identify potential contamination sources, develop plans to manage wellhead protection areas, educate the public on drinking water protection, and work with emergency responders to ensure timely response to spills within the wellhead protection areas.

In areas where surface water is used, Indiana American Water works with local industry, government officials and others to identify and develop plans to mitigate the impacts from potential contamination risks.

Where can I get more information on source water protection?

<https://www.amwater.com/inaw/water-information/watershed-protection>

<https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2368.htm>

<https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/>

<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>

<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/hows-my-waterway>

<https://www.the71percent.org/>

