

Householder Awareness

Improving Water Quality in your local area



**HELP US TO
PROTECT
YOUR RIVER**

Report Water Pollution
In Confidence

24hr Hotline Number

0800 807060



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency



What can I do as a householder that will help improve water quality in our local area?



Stop & Think - Not down the sink

- Don't put oil, fat or grease down the sink.
- Don't pour oil, fat or grease down the drain.
- Don't scrape food into the sink.
- Don't use boiling water to dissolve fat and grease.



Prevent Misconnections

Incorrect plumbing in your home could mean waste water from your dishwasher, washing machine, sinks, and baths could be flushed directly to your river. Check your connections inside the house and also the outside drains to ensure pollution is not entering the river. For further information see: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/connecting-your-home-right-drains



Ensure correct disposal of Chemicals, Paints, Fats and Oils

Chemicals, paints, used cooking oil must be properly disposed at household waste recycling centres. Do not pour waste fats, oils and grease down drains or sewers as this leads to blockages, odour and vermin problems, as well as polluting your local rivers and streams.



Maintenance of Septic Tanks

Single dwellings and their septic tanks can contribute to poor water quality. Correct servicing of your septic tank is crucial. It is advisable to have your tank desludged regularly and check on the nature of the effluent. The excessive use of detergents, bleach etc. kills off the bugs in a septic tank which are needed to break down waste effectively. Remember to use household cleaning products sparingly and choose environmental friendly options. Northern Ireland Water (NIW) provide a septic tank desludging service. Further Information can be found at the NIW website: www.niwater.com



Car wash care

Outdoor car washing has the potential to result in high loads of pollutants such as suspended solids, nutrients, detergents, chemicals, metals and hydrocarbons entering storm drains that lead to our rivers. Dispose of dirty, detergent rich car wash water into the foul sewer network.



Prevent Litter

When waste - plastic bags, bottles, cigarette butts, etc - is thrown on the ground, it gets washed into storm drains and directly into our waterways. In addition to potentially choking, suffocating aquatic life like fish and birds, litter decreases oxygen levels in the water when it decays.

Litter is one of the most unsightly forms of pollution in our local waterways and can easily be prevented. Most litter can be recycled, which not only protects the environment, it saves our natural resources.



Chemical and Pesticide use & disposal

Pesticides and household chemicals, detergents, bleaches, biocides and disinfectants e.g. those used for patio cleaning (Sodium Hypochlorite) can harm the environment if they are not disposed of properly. Gardeners and allotment holders need to use and dispose of chemicals, pesticides and associated packaging carefully.

The smallest trace of a chemical or pesticide makes water unacceptable for human consumption and even very tiny amounts can kill or injure fish and insects.

- Never put or allow entry of chemicals or pesticides into any water system (e.g. drains, sinks, toilets, waterways, ditches).
- Don't put chemicals or pesticides in your bin unless the label says you can.
- Don't put chemicals or pesticides on a garden bonfire.



Don't flush it, bag it & bin it

Millions of sanitary waste items are flushed down toilets every year. The wastewater drain which runs from your house is just 4 inches wide and only designed for human waste and toilet roll. Other waste can cause blockages. Further info visit: www.niwater.com/bag-it-and-bin-it

How do I report pollution?

**HELP US TO PROTECT YOUR WATERWAYS
REPORT WATER POLLUTION IN CONFIDENCE FREE PHONE**

0800 80 70 60

24hr Hotline Number

This service should be used to report all urgent water pollution incidents. If you want to report a pollution incident that does not require immediate attention you can email us: **Emergency-Pollution@daera-ni.gov.uk**

Why should I help to improve the water quality in the local area?

- Freshwater is one of our most important natural resources for drinking, farming, commerce, leisure and biodiversity.
- Manage our environment for future generations to enjoy.
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 requires a holistic approach to the management of water quality, and requires the protection and improvement of all aspects of the water environment as we strive to achieve good water quality.
- Failure to reach water quality targets could result in further controls on ALL users which should be avoided.
- Involvement at a local level is considered the key to addressing the water quality issues...you can make a difference!

Our aim is to protect and enhance Northern Ireland's environment, and in doing so, deliver health and well-being benefits and support economic growth.

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An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wí'in the Depairtment o
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**