



In Your Home

Use cleaning solutions that are less hazardous to wildlife, conserve water and keep your septic system in working order.

Use Low or No Phosphorus Detergents and Soaps

Whenever possible use natural cleaning solutions for household chores and especially limit your use of products containing phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus can grow 700 pounds of algae. You can help reduce levels of phosphorus in our waterways by replacing high-phosphorus dishwashing detergents and laundry soaps with their low or no phosphorus counterparts. Alternatives to phosphorus, such as enzymes, have been shown to be just as effective at food removal and spot reduction. Receive a sample of [Method's \(www.methodhome.com\)](http://www.methodhome.com) no-phosphorus laundry detergent as part of your Watershed Care Package. You can also create your own low-cost household cleaning solutions, recipes are available online.

Conserve Water Indoors

Snowmelt is the primary source of late summer and fall streamflow in the Wenatchee River watershed. Variability in winter precipitation results in high variable streamflow year to year, particularly in the more arid lower watershed. Whether this year's snowpack is high or low, you can help ensure an adequate supply of water for humans, wildlife and fish by repairing leaks and installing low-flow plumbing fixtures in your home. For more water conservation tips visit [Water – Use it Wisely \(www.wateruseitwisely.com\)](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com).

Properly Maintain Your Septic System

Without regular maintenance, septic systems can fail or overflow. Bacteria, viruses and other pollutants from the raw sewage can contaminate drinking water resources and nearby streams and rivers. Watch for a saturated yard, odors, lush growth and backed-up toilets or drains as signs of septic system failure. Install water-saving devices in your house to prolong septic drain field life and avoid putting septic tank additives, bleach, liquid drain cleaner and paint down your drains.

Washington State law requires a full evaluation of systems consisting of a septic tank and a gravity drainfield. All other systems must have a yearly evaluation. For more information and a list of qualified service providers, contact the [Chelan–Douglas Health District \(www.cdhd.wa.gov\)](http://www.cdhd.wa.gov). Visit [USDA Rural Development \(www.rurdev.usda.gov/Home.html\)](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Home.html) for information on septic system repair loans and repair programs.