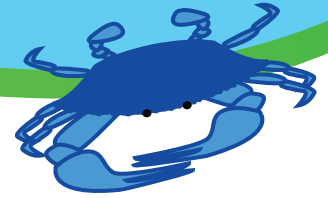


10 Things You Can Do Today

to Reclaim the Bay

Many factors contribute to the degradation of our waterways. Everyone can be involved in helping the Bay Restoration through simple activities.



- 1. Don't Litter** – Reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 2. Use Fertilizer Sparingly** – Limit the amount of fertilizer used on your lawn and garden. Excessive levels of nutrients in the Bay lead to lower levels of oxygen needed for aquatic life.
- 3. Build a Rain Garden or Rain Barrel** – Stormwater carries pollutants such as lawn chemicals from our yards into the Bay. Creating backyard habitats can minimize runoff and reduce yard work.
- 4. Scoop the Poop** – Make your neighbors happy and keep harmful nitrogen out of the Bay by always cleaning up after your pet.
- 5. Drive Less** – More than one-third of the nitrogen pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay originates from air pollution. Consider carpooling, using public transportation, biking or walking whenever possible.
- 6. Reduce Electricity** - Coal-burning power plants are among the largest sources of nitrogen compounds in air pollution.
- 7. Grab a Friend and Volunteer** – Cleaning up the Bay begins in your hometown. Find a local watershed group, grab some friends and volunteer for a clean-up.
- 8. Make an Appointment to Service Your Septic System** – Septic systems should be inspected yearly to ensure proper functioning. Failing systems can leak into the groundwater and eventually end up in the Bay.
- 9. Dispose Properly of Hazardous Household Items** – Oils, anti-freeze, paint, cleaners and prescription drugs shouldn't be poured down a household or storm drain. Check with your local waste management service to find out what hazardous materials they accept.
- 10. Recycle Oyster Shells** – A healthy oyster population can help filter and clean Chesapeake Bay waterways. A recycled oyster shell can return 10 new oysters back into the Bay.

