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Cottonwood
Water & Sanitation District

COLORADO WATER FOURTEENERS

14

WAYS TO
CARE FOR WATER
QUALITY

Coloradans enjoy some of the best water in the West. Let's keep it that way by doing our part to preserve water quality and protect our natural environment. In addition to these 14 tips, conserving water is one of the best ways to safeguard water quality.



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COLORADO WATER LIVE LIKE YOU LOVE IT



1 PROPERLY DISPOSE MEDICINE

Safely dispose of unused/expired medicines through drug take-back programs. Ask your local health department for details.



2 DON'T POLLUTE STORM DRAINS

Never dump oil, paint or any other hazardous materials down the storm drain.



3 PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Pet waste gets picked up by rain and sprinkler runoff, spreading bacteria into local creeks and habitats.



4 FIX OIL LEAKS

Oil that drips onto streets and driveways eventually gets carried into the storm drain, polluting our water supply.



5 DIRECT YOUR DOWNSPOUTS

Redirect downspouts toward your lawn or plants, not the sidewalk.



6 PUT WIPES IN THE TRASH

Avoid flushing hygienic wipes down the toilet, even if they're labeled as flushable. Wipes clog our sewer system, requiring costly repairs.



7 REDUCE PAVED AREAS

Replace paved areas with porous materials and plantings that allow water to soak through rather than run off.



8 USE A BROOM INSTEAD OF A HOSE

Sweep sidewalks and driveways to prevent grass clipping, leaves and debris from entering the storm drain and polluting local waterways.



9 USE SAND OR CAT LITTER ON ICE

Use sand or cat litter instead of ice melt salt, then sweep it up after the ice melts.



10 LOSE THE LANDSCAPE FABRIC

Weed fabric slows water from entering the soil. Mulch controls weeds just as well.



11 FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for using, storing, and disposing of household chemicals.



12 USE CHEMICALS SPARINGLY

Consider natural alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers, which can harm local waterways and habitats.



13 USE A CERTIFIED CAR WASH

Certified commercial car washes clean and recycle the used water onsite to prevent chemicals from entering the storm drain.



14 ADD NATURAL SOIL AMENDMENTS

Add compost and organic matter to soil then top with mulch to retain soil moisture. Healthy soil acts as a water filter.