

### **What is non-point source pollution?**

Non-point source pollution (NPS) is pollution from a large land area as opposed to pollution coming from a single source, such as a pipe.

### **Where does NPS come from?**

NPS pollution comes from a variety of different places. It is generated by households, businesses, agricultural operations, and industries. Some of the daily routines in our lives produce NPS pollution.

### **Why should you be concerned about NPS pollution?**

This type of pollution is wide spread but it can have damaging effects. It has the potential to pollute the soil, surface water, and ground water we use in our daily lives.

### **Some of the most common types of NPS are listed below:**

Household fertilizers

Pesticides

Herbicides

Pet wastes

Human wastes (on-site septic systems)

Leaking vehicle and equipment liquids

Improper disposal or storage of chemicals

### **How can you help prevent the effects of these pollutants?**

You can use only the proper amount of fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide for your lawn or garden. Use only the recommended amount of the fertilizer. Using more than the recommended amount can damage the plants, and adding too much fertilizer to the soil kills the important soil microorganisms. You can also use organic fertilizers instead chemical fertilizers; they add important nutrients to the soil without the harmful effects chemical fertilizers have. Organic pesticides can be used instead of chemical pesticides to reduce the risk of runoff into the soil. Your extension agent or Farm Service Representative can provide you with helpful information about fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

Pet wastes should be cleaned-up and disposed of properly according to state and local regulations. Pet wastes can add harmful bacteria to the soil and this can runoff into groundwater or surface water. Adding lime to the waste does not kill the microorganisms; it only helps control the odor.

Human wastes are another concern; improper or failing septic systems are the number one cause of polluted ground water in Virginia. Pumping your septic system every three years helps to reduce the chances your septic system will fail.

Leaking vehicles and equipment add to the problem of NPS pollution. If you know your vehicle or equipment is leaking, fix the leak before the chemicals leak onto the ground. If you change your vehicle or equipment fluids be very careful. Don't allow any of the chemicals to leak out onto the ground or, take the vehicle or equipment to an authorized service technician and let them change the fluids.

Improper disposal or storage of chemicals can cause serious problems. Always read the label and look for warnings, proper storage instructions, and proper disposal instructions. Don't store chemicals outside of storage buildings or other enclosed areas. Don't store chemicals in unapproved containers. Dispose of leaking containers and chemicals according to the label, and before they have a chance to leak onto the ground.



## Virginia Rural Water Association

### Our Mission Statement

To provide professional development, assistance and training for its members to enhance the proficiency of their operations through education and support services.

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## Non – Point Source Pollution Brochure



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