

# 7 Ways You Can Protect Water Quality in Arizona

In Arizona, the water we drink comes from lakes, rivers and streams – even from underground. Help protect this precious natural resource at the source, before it reaches our homes.



## 1. Help clean up trash in and around waterways.

Surface runoff can wash litter into rivers and streams, polluting the environment and harming aquatic life.



## 2. Clean and maintain septic systems.

Leaking septic systems can spread disease and parasites to drinking water sources, potentially harming people and animals.



## 3. Never dump pesticides, oil, fuel or other chemicals down storm drains.

Careless dumping is one of the leading causes of water pollution.



## 4. Set up a composting pile; minimize using the garbage disposal.

Food waste can overtax water treatment systems.



## 5. Never flush unwanted or expired medicines down the toilet or drain.

Pharmaceuticals have been detected in wastewater treatment plant effluent, potentially harming wildlife and reentering drinking water systems.



## 6. Clean your vehicle at a car wash.

Car washes generally use less water per vehicle than washing at home; plus many clean and recycle the water for additional use.



## 7. Design a rain garden to capture runoff.

Slowing the flow of water across land allows for natural infiltration of the water through the soil.