

Take your groceries home in reusable bags. Disposable plastic bags are wasteful and sometimes end up in our creeks and rivers.

Don't...

Don't use disposable paper or plastic bags for grocery shopping.

Do...

Do take your own reusable shopping bags with you to the grocery store.

Why?

Though some disposable paper bags are recyclable, many trees are still cut down to meet the high demand for these bags. Disposable plastic bags are inexpensive to produce, but require non-renewable resources such as petroleum and natural gas. Plastic bags are a serious problem because they can be found just about everywhere: in ditches, along highways, stuck in tree branches and in landfills. They also tend to make their way into our creeks and rivers. Once there, they can negatively affect habitat and wildlife.

If your parents work on the car at home, make sure there are containers under the car to catch any drips.

Don't...

Hose down or dump any household solvent or automotive product into streets or creeks.

Do...

Dispose of these wastes by placing them in clean, leak-proof containers and taking them to your local hazardous waste collection site. Use water-based paints whenever possible. Wash water-based paint from brushes in the sink. For oil- or latex-based paint, wash paintbrushes in a container with thinner, then take the thinner to a hazardous waste facility. Most auto parts stores will accept used motor oil for recycling.

Why?

If not disposed of properly, automotive and household waste can contaminate creeks and groundwater.

When walking your pets, pick up after them and throw the waste in the garbage. Rain can wash pet waste into our creeks and rivers, where it doesn't belong.

Don't...

Leave animal or pet waste in your yard or on the ground where you walk your pet.

Do...

Make sure you clean up after your pet. Carry waste bags on walks. Ideally, biodegradable bags are the best choice.

Why?

Animal/pet feces that are not picked up can end up in storm drains and creeks. Feces can



carry bacteria that cause disease.

Ask your parents to wash the car at a car wash or in the grass, not on the driveway. Dirt and chemicals from cars can run off the driveway into our creeks and rivers.

Don't...

Wash your vehicle in your driveway.

Do...

Wash your vehicle on a flat, grassy area or take it to a commercial car wash where special drains are installed to properly dispose of runoff.

Why?

The runoff from your driveway carries pollutants into storm drains and creeks.



Recycle everything you can and be sure to put other trash in a garbage can with a lid. This will keep loose trash out of our creeks and rivers.

Don't...

Put any trash in creeks or outside a recycling or garbage bin where wind or rain can carry it to storm drains or creek channels.

Do...

Place items that can be recycled into a recycling bin, and then make sure all other items go into a garbage bin with a lid.

Why?

Trash that is not disposed of properly can end up in creeks, obstructing flow and harming wildlife.



When you mow the lawn, leave the grass clippings on the lawn or throw them away in trash bags. Don't sweep or blow them into the street, or they could end up in our creeks and rivers.

Don't...

Dump or blow grass clippings and leaves into creeks, storm drains or streets, and don't put them in the garbage.

Do...

Add them to a compost pile, leave them on your yard so they can fertilize your lawn or use a curbside yard waste collection service if it is available.

