

Do you know...

that every faucet, sink, bathtub, shower, hose, sprinkler, dishwasher, washing machine and car wash in the city uses water from Lake Michigan? While Chicagoans are fortunate to have access to a seemingly unlimited supply of water, we should never take it for granted.



Action H₂O

You can help

Save the Source!

Conserve water every day. Try these steps...



Water your lawn during early morning or evening hours or grow native plants that require little watering.



Install water-saving fixtures and appliances in your home.



Repair leaks in your sinks and toilets.

Even repairing a slowly dripping faucet can save 5 gallons a day.



Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or shave.

For more information: www.cityofchicago.org or call 311



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley,
Mayor

Do you know...

that during heavy rains the sewer system can fill up? In some cases, a rainwater/wastewater mix can be discharged, untreated, into our river system. Full sewers can also back up into basements.



Action H₂O

You can help

Save the Source!

Reduce basement backups and river pollution by preventing excess rainwater from entering the sewers when it rains. Try these steps...



Plant a rain garden using water-loving, native Midwestern plants that have long roots and can absorb more rainwater than traditional turf landscapes.



Disconnect your downspout. If this is something that makes sense for your home, you can allow rainwater from your roof to run into your yard or garden, instead of through your gutter and into the sewer.

Let the rain soak through. Pavements such as asphalt and concrete don't allow rain water through.

Instead, rain that hits pavement collects chemicals and oils and washes them into the sewer. By using gravel, crushed rock or stone pavers, you let clean rainwater soak through to the ground where it belongs.

For more information: www.cityofchicago.org or call 311



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley,
Mayor

Do you know...

where the rain goes? Rainwater that falls onto the streets, sidewalks and parking lots flows into our city sewers. As it washes across those hard surfaces, it picks up motor oil, litter and chemicals.

During a storm, huge amounts of rainwater can overtax the sewers, allowing polluted water to overflow into our river system. Our water resources are vital for drinking, recreation and quality of life. It is important that we not pollute them.



Action H₂O

You can help

Save the Source!

Lower the amount of pollution that ends up in our waterways by reducing the amount of pollution that goes into our sewers in the first place. Try these steps...



Always put litter in its place. Litter on beaches attracts seagulls. These birds leave behind their waste, which can increase the levels of bacteria in the water.



Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden. When it rains, these chemicals wash into our sewers and our river system.



Never discard chemicals, pharmaceuticals, litter or motor oil down any drain or sewer. These substances can contaminate our rivers and lakes.



For more information: www.cityofchicago.org or call 311



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley,
Mayor