

TOP 10 WAYS TO HEAL THE BAY



Even if you live miles from the Bay, there are many ways that you can help. Check out these top 10 suggestions and start healing the Bay today!

1. Keep your Litter out of the Gutter!

Keep trash, yard trimmings, and other litter off the street and out of the storm drains so they don't end up in the ocean. Clean up after your dog, cat, or horse to keep the waste out of the storm drain and away from your favorite beach. Report full catch basins to the Department of Public Works:

Baltimore City:

Water: 410-396-3500

Solid Waste: 410-396-5134

Baltimore County: 410-887-3300

2. Don't Be a Drip

Over-watering is wasteful and moves trash and toxins to the ocean. Conserving water also helps the sewage treatment plant do a better job. Turn off the faucet when you don't need it. Fix leaky pipes and install low-flow showerheads and toilets.

3. Hold on to Your Balloons

Released helium balloons eventually pop and fall back to land, ending up in the ocean where animals mistake them for food. Always pop balloons and put them in the trash.



4. Beware of Six-Pack Rings

Avoid buying them, or cut them up before you throw them out. Marine animals choke on garbage and get tangled in trash. Unlike people, birds and fish don't have hands to remove items caught around their necks.

5. Go Non-Toxic!

Avoid buying products like liquid drain openers. Use pesticides as little as possible and look for non-toxic alternatives. Use compost instead of chemical fertilizers. If you must use harsh chemical products, bring them to authorized household hazardous waste drop-off centers. For locations near you, call the Department of Public Works (see 1 above).

6. Sack the Plastic Bags

Instead of taking plastic bags at the grocery store, bring your own bag. Plastic bags create loads of unnecessary litter; they are easily blown by the wind, and they often end up in the ocean. Plastic takes hundreds of years to biodegrade, and creates hazards for marine life and other wildlife.



7. Make a Clean Sweep

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways. Watering the driveway won't make it grow! Sweep trash into a dustpan, not the gutter, and use the garden clippings as mulch to fertilize your yard.



8. Recycle Used Motor Oil

You can recycle your used motor oil at gas stations, auto parts stores, and garages. Never pour it down the drain, in the gutter, or on the ground. Motor oil is extremely toxic.



9. Go to a Car Wash

Most car washes recycle their water. If you clean your car at home, wash it on the lawn. Use a bucket to conserve water and use biodegradable soap.

10. Join a Watershed Group

Be part of the solution and get involved. Help us continue to protect the Chesapeake Bay. A list of local watershed associations can be found in the back of your BioEYES journals!