



*at a
glance*

**Don't Live in the Dark!
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River Basin**



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PTC 

STORMWATER steward

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Don't Live in the Dark! Understand Your CFL

WHAT ARE CFL LIGHT-BULBS?

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs or CFLs are highly efficient light bulbs. CFL bulbs use up to 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and can save \$47 over the life of the bulb. Energy is created when a small amount of mercury inside the light bulb excites the fluorescent coating within the tube to produce visible light.

WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?

Mercury, also called quick silver, is highly toxic. If the light bulbs are broken, mercury vapor is released. If broken bulbs are cleaned up and disposed of properly then there is little reason to be concerned about mercury poisoning.

HOW DO LIGHT BULBS AFFECT OUR WATER?

When the number of CFLs disposed of in a landfill increases, the amount of mercury begins to add up. As water and other precipitation filters through the trash, fluids become concentrated. This is known as "leachate." If leachate is not properly managed, it may lead to water pollution.

Water polluted with mercury poses health risks to humans, and wildlife. Although each bulb only contains about 5 milligrams of mercury, it is highly toxic and a little bit can cause a lot of damage. By properly disposing of CFL light bulbs, you can help preserve our waters for future generations.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

To prevent mercury from entering the environment recycle CFL light bulbs in specially designated locations. In some areas, it's illegal to dispose of CFLs in the landfill. To find the nearest recycling center visit: earth911.com or

<http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling.html>

For more information visit:

<http://www.p2pays.org/f/45/44988.pdf>

Steps for Safely Disposing of CFL Light Bulbs:



- **Ventilate the Room;** open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes.
- **Turn off any central air or HVAC system** while waiting for the vapor to dissipate (for at least a couple hours).
- **Pick up large pieces** with stiff paper or cardboard.
- **Use sticky tape** to pick up small glass pieces and any powder.
- **Place all broken parts and clean up material** in a sealable container such as a glass jar or 2 plastic bags doubled.
- **Immediately take container outside** and place in a protected location until proper disposal is available.
- **DO NOT USE THE VACUUM!**

Septic System Friend or Foe?

Septic systems rely on the power of bacteria to digest nutrients and other components of sewage. To keep the bacteria alive and well, reduce or eliminate the following killers:

- Household chemicals (such as bleach, and other harsh cleansers.)
- Gasoline.
- Oil.
- Pesticides.
- Antifreeze.
- Paint.

The following may also harm your system by clogging the entrance and exits:

- Cigarette butts.
- Grease.
- Cat litter.
- Diapers.
- Coffee grounds.
- Feminine hygiene products.

Runoff Rundown: How Fido Is Protecting Our Waters

What if your dog could sniff out sewage leaks that are threatening our waters? Canines, or sewage-sniffing dogs are being tested to determine how reliable they are at locating sources of human-waste contamination in storm drains.

Leaks may happen in our personal septic system, or in the city run sewage system. Leaks of raw sewage can dump dangerous bacteria into our water making it too dirty for wildlife and recreation.

Until now, the only way to see if sewage leaks originate from human or animal waste was through DNA testing. DNA tests are expensive and time consuming. The Canine and Microbial Source Tracking project in Santa Barbara, CA is using the power of dogs noses to sniff out sewage leaks. They are testing the feasibility of using canine scent tracking to locate physical locations of human waste entering storm drains and the loca-



Image: Scott Reynolds

tion of illegal waste-tank dumping by recreational vehicle (RV) owners.

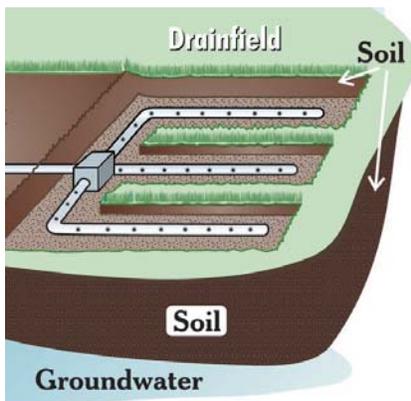
While Fido may be the wave of the future in sewage detection, we still rely on their two-legged counterparts to determine leaks in the Piedmont Triad. If you have areas in your yard that remain moist during dry times, patches of excessive grass or plant growth, or excessive algae growth along stream banks, your septic system might be leaking.

If you're connected to a municipal system, your nose is likely your best method of detecting a leak. If something is wet and stinky, contact your local water and sewer department immediately!



Image: Scott Reynolds,

Top Reasons to Maintain Your Septic System:



EPA Toolbox

- **Protect our water**
- **Protect our health**
- **Treat your wastewater**
- **Increase the life of the septic system**
- **Protect your home's value**
- **It is your responsibility!**

Human waste is about 60% bacteria, so humans on average expel 1/4 lb of bacteria every day!

Focus on the Yadkin River Basin

Would you like Stormwater SMART to present to your civic or community group? If you live in one of our member communities, Stormwater SMART programs are available at no charge. Contact us at (336) 294-4950 to set up a Stormwater Education Event Today!

About the Yadkin

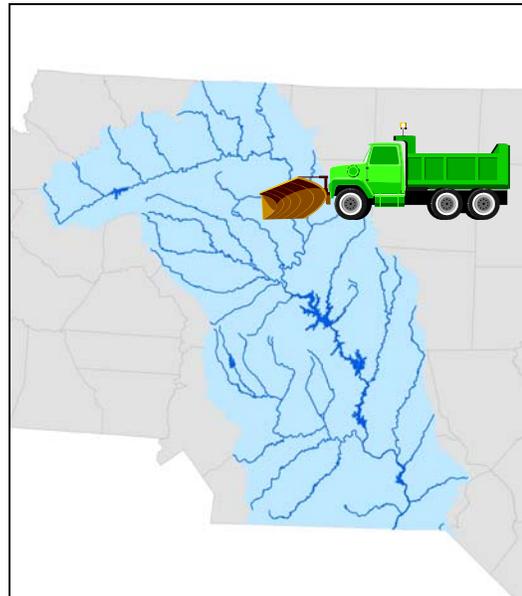
What is a river basin? A river basin is an area of land where all the creeks and streams run downhill and eventually flow into the river.

The Yadkin River Basin begins in mountains of North Carolina, flows through the piedmont and ends in the South Carolina coastal plain. It flows through 21 counties and travels 203 miles in NC before becoming the Pee Dee River in SC where it travels another 230 miles.

Many Piedmont Triad residents live in the Yadkin River Basin. Larger cities include Winston Salem, Lexington, Thomasville and parts of High Point, Archdale and Asheboro.

Problems Facing the Yadkin

Unfortunately, the Yadkin is being polluted by eroded soil. When it rains soil is picked up from agricultural fields and development sites. As soil runs into our rivers it becomes known as "sediment". Although natural, sediment can smother fish eggs and insect larvae that are an essential food source for fish. Sediment can also have other



pollutants attached to it such as phosphorous. The phosphorous on the soil combines with other nutrients that are picked up by stormwater as rain flows through cities. While the dirt you use to make mud pies isn't considered "pollution", the dirt that washes into our waters is. For more information on how you can protect our waters, visit www.stormwatersmart.org.

\$ For You Through the CCAP Program

Want \$\$ to beautify your yard and clean our water? Then CCAP (Community Conservation Assistance Program) is for you.

CCAP provides education, technical expertise and financial assistance to landowners who want to install BMPS (Best Management Practices) to improve our water quality. Most private and public land is eligible for CCAP. Apply today!

If you are interested, contact your local soil and water conservation district. A complete list of districts is available online at: <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/dswc/pages/district%20offices.html>

BMP's ELIGIBLE FOR CCAP FUNDING:

- Backyard wetlands
- Permeable pavement
- Riparian buffers
- Stream restoration
- Backyard rain gardens
- Cisterns/Rain Barrels
- Pet waste receptacles
- Abandoned well closures



Davidson County
 Randolph County
 Rockingham County
 Archdale
 Asheboro
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 Elon
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 Graham
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 Haw River
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PIEDMONT TRIAD
 COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Get Involved: Get SMART in the Garden

Gardens are an ideal place to merge aesthetics with stormwater. Learn how gardening to sooth the soul can improve our water quality. Stormwater SMART offers educational presentations at no cost to civic groups including Garden Clubs. Presentations that may interest Garden Clubs include:

- Rain garden design and function.
- Native plants and their role in protecting our water quality.
- Landscaping to improve our water quality.



Other resources Garden Clubs may be interested in include:

- Free Soil Testing by the local County Extension Service: Test your soil to determine the correct application of fertilizer. For more information visit: NC Cooperative Extension Service www.ces.ncsu.edu NC Agronomic Services Soil Testing www.agr.state.nc.us/agronomi/sthome.htm

- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) through the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation: Landowners can be reimbursed for

installing Backyard Rain Gardens, Impervious Surface Conversion, Rain Barrels, and other best management practices (BMPs) that protect our water quality. For ore information visit :

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/swc/ccaplandingpage>

Look for Stormwater SMART at a Fair or Festival near you.

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|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 4/30/2011 | Mebane Dogwood Festival |
| 5/7/2011 | Lexington Multi-Cultural Festival |
| 5/7/2011 | Yee Haw River Festival |
| 5/7/2011 | Thomasville Spring Daze |
| 5/14/2011 | Summerfield Founders Day Festival |
| 6/04/2011 | Trail Days, Finch Park (Lexington) |

Stormwater SMART was created by the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments to help Phase II communities comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Public Education and Outreach requirements. Stormwater SMART is supported through dues paid by member governments.