



Let's do our bit...

Here are a few simple everyday things we can all do help protect our River Wear

<p>1</p> <p>Wash your car on gravel or grass</p> <p>...not on tarmac driveways or out on the street where water can run quickly and directly into the surface water drain.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Check your household connections</p> <p>Washing machines, toilets dishwashers, sinks and baths should all run into the foul drain see: www.connectright.org.uk If you have a septic tank, keep it maintained to protect your family and the environment.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Take extra care with wheelie bin washing</p> <p>Ensure that your wheelie bin is washed on gravel or grass and check that soapy waste water doesn't reach the surface water drain on your street.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Be a responsible dog owner</p> <p>Always scoop and take your dog waste home with you. If left in the woods, on the street or in the park it can easily be washed into our river.</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>Use eco-friendly products</p> <p>Phosphate-free laundry detergents help to minimise the chemicals that water companies have to remove from our water at sewage works.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Dispose of liquid waste with care</p> <p>Never tip chemicals such as White Spirit, oils or paints down the drain. Take them along to your local tip / waste recycling centre instead. See: www.loveyourdrain.co.uk</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Use slug pellets sparingly</p> <p>...and other garden chemicals. They can easily reach surface water drains and pollute ground water causing irreversible damage to our drinking water.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Don't drop litter or fly tip</p> <p>Rubbish, no matter how small, can harm wildlife and cause damaging blockages in our water network. Be sure to bin it every time.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Help to spot river pollution</p> <p>Dead animals, changes in water colour or smell, oil on the surface of our river or increased algae can all point to pollution. Contact the Environment Agency if you spot these things: 0800 80 70 60</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Get involved</p> <p>Do you want to do more? Visit our website or Facebook page to find out about volunteering opportunities today and spread the word...</p> 

