



Good Water Quality Starts at Home!

The algal blooms in our waterways are a result of poor water quality. The blooms are fed by warm temperatures, and too much nutrients in the water, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus. The nutrients are often carried by stormwater and may come from a number of sources including residential yards, agricultural operations, and commercial and industrial sites. Identifying the specific sources of the nutrients, and the actions to reduce them, requires good science and broad public participation. However, each resident can take specific actions **now** to help improve water quality.

Here are 20 ways to Love Your River!

On the Water

1. Canoe & Kayak
2. Go fishing
3. Become a *River Keeper*
4. Don't drink and "boat"
5. Stash the trash

In Your Yard

6. Reduce fertilizers and pesticides
7. Plant native plants
8. Reduce your runoff
9. Encourage infiltration with vegetation
10. Mulch your beds
11. Don't dump in the ditches and storm drains
12. Install rain barrels
13. Compost

Around the House

14. Maintain your septic system
15. Use environmentally safe cleaners
16. Don't flush medications down the toilet

Around the Area

17. Scoop the poop
18. Eat local
19. Don't feed the geese
20. Share the waterways!

For information on **What You Can Do**, visit the EPA webpage

www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/what-you-can-do

Practice Algal Bloom Safety

- If the water is pea soup green, or blue green, don't swim in it.



- Don't let your pets get in the water.
- If you accidentally come into contact with an algal bloom, wash thoroughly.
- If you see a fish kill, don't eat fish or shell fish from these waters.
- Report the bloom at

www.pasquotankcountync.org/report

For more information on algal bloom safety visit the NC Department of Health and Human Services web page:

epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oe/algae/protect.html



For more information on algal blooms and the regional partnership working to determine the causes of, and solutions to, the blooms, visit:

www.albemarlecd.org/fighting-algal-blooms.html