



My Tennessee: Clean Water Starts Here Homeowner Questionnaire

*Complete the checklist, and make an appointment for an onsite assessment by emailing
mytennessee@caribbean-sea.org*

Name _____ Watershed _____

Address _____ Date _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

GOAL: Our goal is to encourage the reduction of stormwater runoff, in turn, reducing pollution in our waterways.

BRONZE LEVEL

where complete or N/A where not applicable

- Remove or avoid using invasive/exotic plants. (To see a list of discouraged plants - <http://tnipc.org/invasive-plants/>)
- Incorporate native plants into landscape. <http://www.wildones.org/>
- Use organic pine straw, pine bark, leaves or hardwood mulch without added dyes
- Protect all soil surfaces with vegetation to minimize erosion by rainfall and runoff
- All trash from property is properly disposed of and not left on ground
- Grass clippings are left in place, composted or properly disposed of and lawn is mowed no shorter than 3 inches
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid hitting paved surfaces and calibrate the output as directed by plant needs, using a rain gauge if needed

- Disconnect downspouts, directing them onto a lawn or garden rather than into drainage channels, onto impervious surfaces, or into waterways
 - Plant a pollinator garden <http://eeintennessee.org/resource/about.aspx?s=99061.0.0.37935>
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>
 - Personal care products, pharmaceuticals and all toxic substances, including automotive vehicle fluids, are recycled or disposed of in accordance with EPA recommended practices <https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>
- Yes No
- Do you have a pet? If so, all animal waste is collected and disposed of in the trash or composted or buried a minimum of 10 feet from stormwater access point and waterways
 - Do you use pesticides or herbicides? If so, spot treat only affected areas using environmentally friendly pesticides/herbicides such as horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps
 - Does your property touch a waterway/stream? If so, maintain a mix of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers along water's edge, creating a vegetated width that is as wide as practical, creating a buffer zone that is not maintained by mowing, fertilizers or pesticides along waterways <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-forests-riparian-buffer>
 - Do you have a septic tank? If so, have it regularly inspected to prevent drainage entering the waterways <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>

SILVER LEVEL

where complete or NA where not applicable

- If you fertilize, obtain a soil test, and maintain soil pH in the recommended range. Do not apply fertilizers in wet weather.
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Hamilton/Documents/Agriculture/Soil%20Testing/Soil%20Testing%20Packet.pdf>
- Build a rain garden to catch and filter stormwater runoff
http://www.chattanooga.gov/images/Water_Quality/How_to_Construct_Your_Rain_Garden_for_Homeowner.pdf
- Use rain barrels or rain collection systems to catch rooftop runoff OR direct downspouts to rain gardens or other green infrastructure.

<http://www.chattanooga.gov/component/content/article/44-public-works/1514-rain-barrels>

- If space allows, add native trees to property
https://ag.tennessee.edu/tnyards/Documents/Native_Trees_for_Tennessee.pdf
- Employ low-flow fixtures throughout dwellings and structures
- Use environmentally friendly sealers (no coal-tar or petroleum based) when maintaining paved surfaces <http://www.chattanooga.gov/component/content/article/44-public-works/1515-miscellaneous-bmp-s>
- Increase buffer zone to waterways to a minimum of 30 feet where possible - area not maintained by mowing, fertilizers or pesticides that includes native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

Yes

No

- Are there areas of the property with erosion problems? If so, implement best management practices to control. For example: planting vegetation to stabilize soil or adding swales where applicable
<http://www.chattanooga.gov/component/content/article/44-public-works/1515-miscellaneous-bmp-s>

GOLD LEVEL

where complete

- Construct additional green infrastructure such as a wetland or bioswale
- Dishwasher, washing machine and water heater are Energy Star® rated
- Replace all impervious pavement with pervious concrete, pavers or other alternatives such as grass pavers