

## Good Housekeeping

Practice good housekeeping and follow best management practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for your daily routine at home and work.

- **Pick up Litter**—Pick up any litter, including the tiny bits, around the drainage systems.
- **Garden safe**—Limit usage of lawn pesticides and fertilizers. Verify with the Environmental Office that their use is allowed in your area.
- **Store Chemicals Properly**—Keep chemicals, paints, fuels and oils properly contained with lids, and away from drain inlets.
- **Sweeping**—Regularly sweep and mop paved areas and parking lots to remove sediment and debris, especially before wash downs. Dispose debris properly.
- **Protective Barriers**—Install barriers to prevent soil and debris runoff while doing home improvements and at construction sites.
- **Report Polluters**—If you see anyone illegally dumping, report them.



## Important Contact Numbers

To report a questionable discharge into a Navy storm drain system or nearby waters, please take the following action:

- Residents of Naval Base Guam (NBG) Apra Heights Housing/Community—contact the Area Housing Manager
- All other Base Personnel—contact:  
  
NBG Storm Water Program,  
NBG Environmental Office  
(671) 339-3711

For additional information, visit Naval Base Guam Storm Water web page at [https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/jrm/installations/navbase\\_guam.html](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/jrm/installations/navbase_guam.html)

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*Water Cycle Graphic from New Jersey American Water (<https://amwater.com/njaw/water-information/water-learning-center/the-value-of-water>)*

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## Why is Water Quality Important?



## What is Water Quality?

**Water Quality** is the condition of the water that affects its suitability for use by living things. We can all do our part to keep our waters safe to drink, fish and swim.



## Why is Water Quality Important on Guam?

Guam's freshwater supply comes from two sources: surface and ground water.

Almost all of northern Guam's freshwater is **ground water** that seeps underground and collects in the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer.

On the southern part of Guam, **surface water** is stored in our rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Protecting these freshwater sources ensures our island has clean drinking water.



Photo: GuamWaterKids, WERI

Ocean water is constantly being recycled into freshwater through the water cycle. Protecting the water quality of our ocean is very important. Water pollution in the ocean affects marine habitats and the quality and amount of food we harvest from its waters.

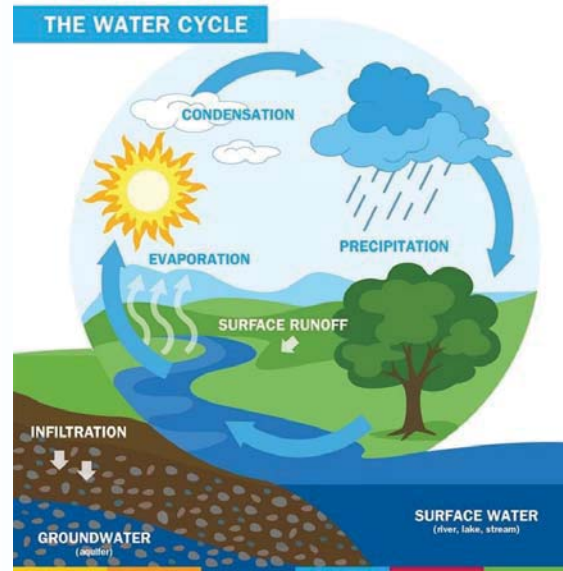


Photo: New Jersey American Water

Our daily activities can affect the quality of our fresh and marine waters. For example, illegally-dumped oil, grease, and hazardous liquids can seep into the ground and end up in our groundwater, and eventually in our ocean water.

Water quality is not just important to us, but to our aquatic life as well.

This brochure presents ways you can keep Guam's waters clean and safe. Share this information with others, so we can all make small changes to protect our waters.

## What Causes Poor Water Quality?

Poor water quality can pose a health risk for people and ecosystems.

Here are examples of water contamination:

- **Illegal Spills**—dumping oil, grease and hazardous liquids is illegal and can contaminate our freshwater supply
- **Excessive Storm Water Runoff**—sediments can cloud water, making it hard for aquatic plants to grow. When floating sediments settle on top of reefs it can destroy aquatic habitats.
- **Agricultural Runoff**—rain can wash fertilizers, pesticides and animal waste from farms into our waterways, carrying with it bacteria and harmful chemicals.



Photo: KUAM News

**Sewage and wastewater**—most of the used water from human waste comes from domestic, industrial and commercial activities. This used water is not fully treated before it is released into the ocean, and can carry bacteria harmful to humans and marine life.