

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

**Best Management Practices, or BMPs,** are practical solutions that help keep **pollutants** from entering streams, rivers, and other water bodies.

1. **Let trees and shrubs grow along river banks.** This will create a **buffer zone** along the stream bank or river bank that will keep the soil from **eroding** into the water. Also, water flowing through the buffer strip will be filtered.
2. **Plant grass or mulch bare, loose soil.**
3. **Fence cows away from the river.** This helps to keep animal waste out of the water and reduces stream bank and channel erosion.
4. **Build a catch-pond, or catch-water basin to capture loose soil** during construction and, later, car leakage from parking lot runoff. Many such basins are positioned next to shopping centers.
5. **Install a silt fence to capture loose soil** from construction sites.
6. **Fence around trees during construction to preserve them.** Trees provide shade, hold soil with their roots, filter **polluted runoff**, cool the water, and provide food and cover for wildlife. They are very important for preserving a healthy **environment**.
7. **Protect drinking water!** Seal up water wells and make sure to keep the ground clean around a well. Don't mix chemicals near a well. Wash cars on grass with a minimum of chemicals.
8. **Repair failing septic systems.**
9. **Plant crops in contour rows** (around the hill.) Use no-till planting when possible (tilling only the rows to be planted and not in between them.)
10. **Recycle motor oil, paper, plastics, cans, etc.**
11. **Dispose of household chemicals at a collection center.**
12. Report chemical leaks or spills.
13. **Pick up litter and dispose of it properly.** Help with neighborhood cleanups.
14. **Tell others what they can do to lessen polluted runoff.**

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To learn more about the Watershed Harmony Environmental Puppet Theater or Study Guide, please visit

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