Our Water. Our Future.

Ours to Protect

# Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

www.semcog.org

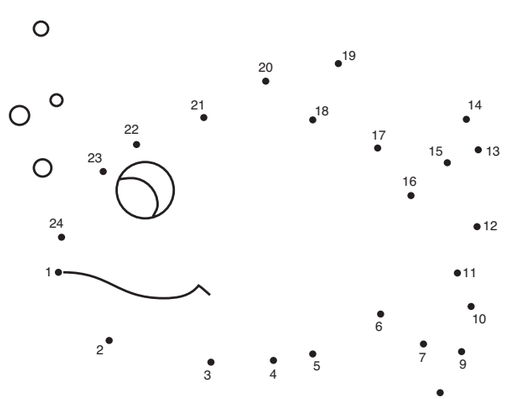
## Kids can make a difference

**Here are some simple steps you can take around your yard and at home to help protect our lakes and rivers.**

1. Never dump anything down storm drains in the street or in roadside ditches. **Anything that goes in our storm drains flows into our lakes and rivers.**
2. **Sweep grass and dirt** off your driveway back onto the lawn.
3. Take household wastes like weed killer and used motor oil to **a local community collection day.**
4. Pick up your pet's waste and **throw it in the trash.**
5. Wash your family's car away from the storm drain (how about on the grass!) **to keep dirty soapy water from getting into the street** where it will get into a lake or river.
6. **Leave grass clippings** on the lawn (they are free fertilizer!).
7. Make sure you're only **watering your grass** — not the street, sidewalk or driveway.

## Connect the Dots

Find an animal that depends on clean water in our lakes and rivers.




**Answers to all the puzzles at www.semcog.org.**

## The Good and the Bad

Find the names of plants and animals that depend on clean water. Then find the stuff around your house that we should keep out of our lakes and rivers. Make sure your family disposes of these things at a community collection day.

**The Good**
Great blue heron
Mussel
Crayfish
Bluegill
Water lily
Salamander
Catfish
Largemouth bass

**The Bad**
Antifreeze
Gasoline
Motor oil
Nail polish
Oil based paint
Pesticide
Weed killer

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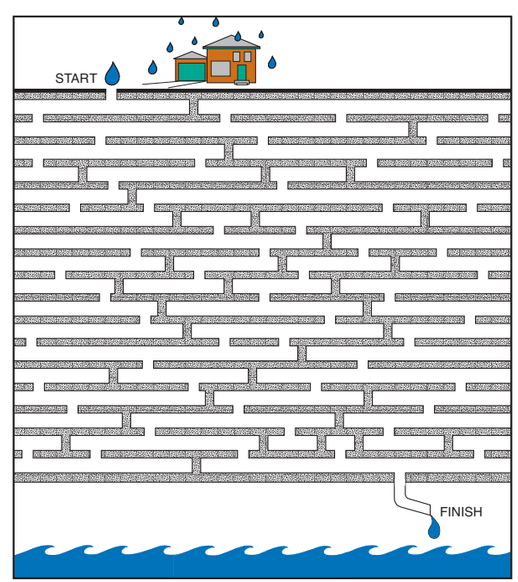
## Raindrop's Journey

Follow the rain drop on its journey from your street down the storm drain and to the river.



*Use the back of this sheet to draw a picture of how you enjoy our lakes and rivers.*