

## What Can You Do at Home to Be a Good Neighbor?

- Clear away fallen trees, twigs, and debris from natural waterways and stormwater drains.
- Keep swales and adjacent waterways free and clear. **DO NOT** dump garbage, debris, sticks, logs, leaves, grass clippings, or any other organic material in waterways.
- Prevent gas, oil leaks, and spills. Clean up any spill immediately by absorbing it with a towel, sand, or kitty litter. **DO NOT** dump oil and motor products in storm drains or inlets.
- **DO NOT** blow, sweep, or dump grass clippings or leaves into the street, down storm drains and drainage ditches.
- **DO NOT** create berms or obstructions that would impact a neighbor's drainage or stormwater flow.
- **DO NOT** position downspouts or drainage directly onto neighbors. Use vegetated areas to absorb or filter stormwater, where possible.
- Compost plant clippings, leaves, excess grass clippings, and other plant material. These can be bagged for curbside pickup in cities or towns that provide that service.
- Report any polluters that are dumping or discharging pollutants into the storm drain system by calling MS4 Coordinator at (219) 755-3753 or fill out a complaint form online at [www.lakecountyin.org](http://www.lakecountyin.org) (under Government > Surveyor).

# Be A Good Stormwater Neighbor

*Lake County, Indiana  
MS4 Department*

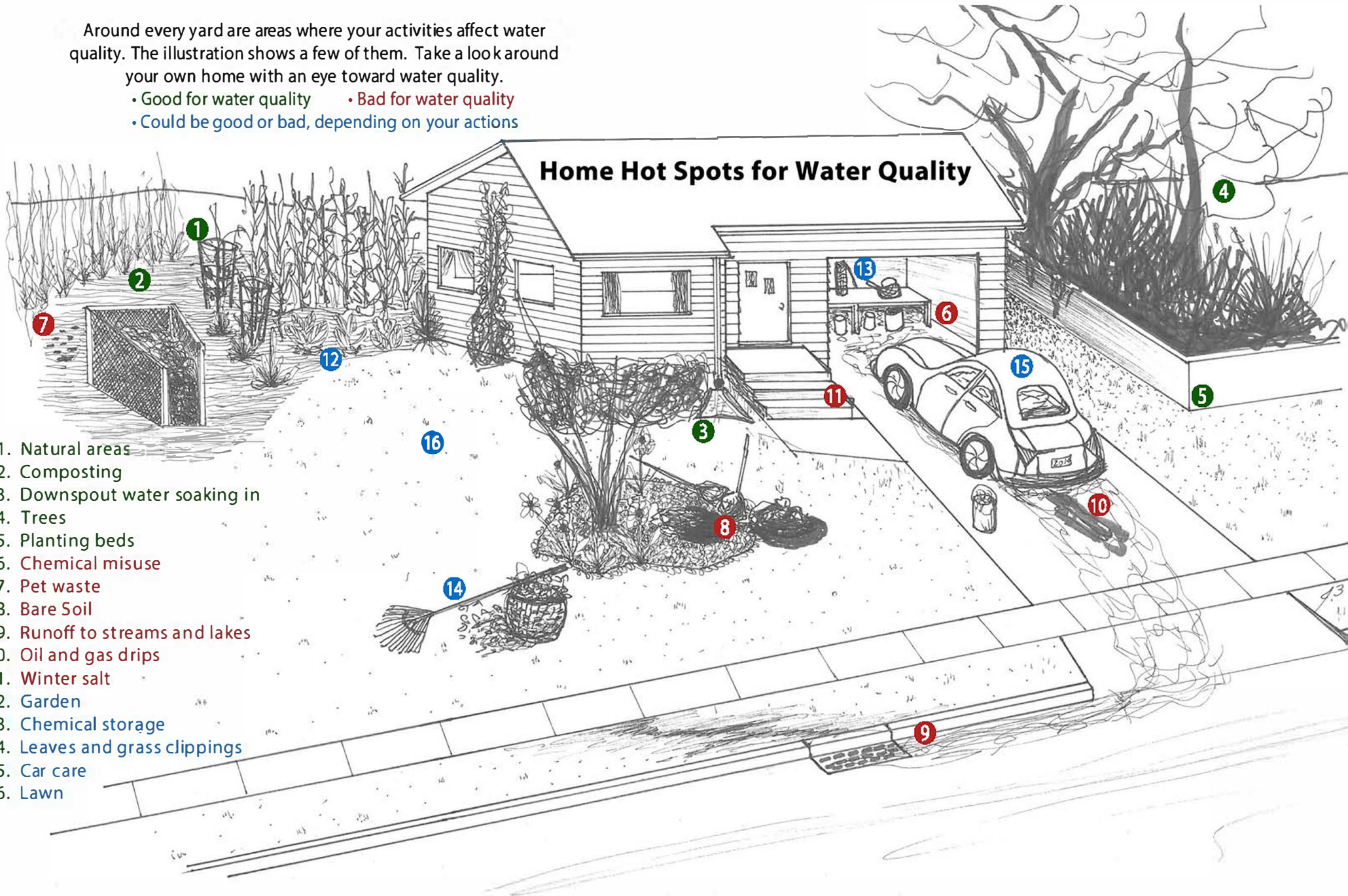


*Lake County Surveyor  
Bill Emerson, Jr., P.E.  
Lake County, Indiana*

Around every yard are areas where your activities affect water quality. The illustration shows a few of them. Take a look around your own home with an eye toward water quality.

- Good for water quality
- Bad for water quality
- Could be good or bad, depending on your actions

## Home Hot Spots for Water Quality



1. Natural areas
2. Composting
3. Downspout water soaking in
4. Trees
5. Planting beds
6. Chemical misuse
7. Pet waste
8. Bare Soil
9. Runoff to streams and lakes
10. Oil and gas drips
11. Winter salt
12. Garden
13. Chemical storage
14. Leaves and grass clippings
15. Car care
16. Lawn