

# What is the #1 pollutant found in our waters?

- A. Chemicals
- B. Fertilizers
- C. Invasive Species
- D. Dirt

The answer is D. Most people are surprised to learn that dirt (soil) is even a problem. More soil washes into our rivers, lakes and streams than any other pollutant—and it doesn't leave.

Disturbing land and grass and removing vegetation causes soil to wash into our waters, carrying dangerous pollutants with it. Mud suffocates wildlife and chokes out fish. It's also very expensive to clean up.

## How you can help:

- Inform your local officials about any problem areas where soil is washing into rivers and streams.
- Encourage local officials to adopt and enforce adequate local zoning and construction site erosion ordinances.
- Support responsible land use planning in your community.
- Call your local conservation district or watershed organization and ask how you can help! Find them at [stopthemudness.net](http://stopthemudness.net).

