

# Save the Planet. Save Money. Get Certified



## Beyond the Office

3 things that should never go down the drain



It can be staggering to think that nearly half of all above ground water sources are contaminated by things you and I do at home. What we put down the drain inside our homes and let go down the storm drain outside all take their toll. Do Your Part to know what the biggest polluters are. Here's a list of five things that should never go down the drain.

### 1.) Grease

It sure is tempting to pour used cooking grease down your sink drain. STOP! That grease not only backs up your drains but those in your neighborhood, too. That's because when grease hardens it can easily clog up sewage pipes and can force raw sewage back into your

## Earth Day

How are you planning to celebrate Earth Day at your business? The holiday is just over a month away (April 22nd) so start planning now. In the past Petal Project businesses have celebrated by encouraging the use of alternative forms of transportation, encouraging reduced resource consumption by posting conservation information around the office, sending educational emails, and participating in community service events. Kelsey is happy to help with Earth Day activities. Contact her at [kmcelroy@ecia.org](mailto:kmcelroy@ecia.org) to start planning.

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### **March Petal Connect Session**

The March Petal Connect session will be held on Tuesday, March 26th from noon to 1:00 at Dubuque Data Services (40 Main St #100). Feel free to bring your lunch. Candace Eudaley, Assistant Executive Director at ECIA, will be speaking about The Jule public transit system and how businesses can get involved. Please RSVP to [kmcelroy@ecia.org](mailto:kmcelroy@ecia.org) by March 19th to reserve your spot. We hope at least one representative from each business will participate.

*Petal Project businesses have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to sustainability so why not share it with each other? Quarterly we host a Petal Connect session for Petal participating businesses. This is your opportunity to learn from each other and use your shared knowledge to solve common challenges.*

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home or into the homes of others on your street. I keep a large container under my sink to collect cooking grease and when it's full, I take it to a full service-recycling center. Sure, it's a little more work but a whole lot more pleasant than dealing with the alternative.

## 2.) Fertilizers & Pesticides

Excess nutrients are another major source of contamination. When we use too much fertilizer on our yard, the excess is picked up by storm water runoff and dumped right into our waterways. This nutrient overload causes algae to bloom which removes oxygen from the water. That literally chokes the life from vital water creatures that help improve the water's quality. To avoid all that, use only the amount of lawn chemicals you truly need and only when and where you need it.

## 3.) Old or Unwanted Medicine

If you have medication you are no longer taking or is past its expiration date, don't flush it unless it specifically says so on the bottle. Instead, drop it off at a local pharmacy that accepts medication. [Click here for a list of those pharmacies.](#)

This article ran in the Telegraph Herald on February 17, 2013. [Click here for the full article.](#)

## Connect with the Petal Project

The Petal Project is on Facebook and Twitter. We have been posting pictures, tweeting from conferences, sending business updates, posting relevant articles, and much more. Connect with us on one or all of these social media sites to keep up-to-date with the Petal Project.



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## Dubuque Jaycee's Community Garden

The Dubuque Jaycee's Community garden was started to connect would be gardeners with a place to grow produce. The gardens can be leased by anyone, but are targeted to people who live in apartments, have strict covenants or just want to be near fellow gardeners. This is not only a means of sustainable local food production, but a way to grow community, togetherness, and family bonds. On site water and shed storage are included. Tenants get the same garden plot back year after year, encouraging them to take pride in it and make it their own.

**The Dubuque Jaycee's are looking for businesses to purchase naming rights for each garden plot. For \$200 a year your business will get to name a garden. The garden name will be included on signage and all formal communications regarding that plot.**

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## Drop-Off Locations for Phones & Batteries

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency is partnering with Call2Recycle, a product stewardship organization managing the only no-cost battery and cellphone collection program in North America, to offer rechargeable battery drop-off locations in Dubuque and Delaware counties. After holiday purchases, many old batteries and cellphones are ready to be recycled. Major retailers such as Radio Shack, Staples, Best Buy and Lowe's offer in-store collection. Along with these businesses, the agency is sponsoring additional drop-off locations.

### Dubuque County sites:

- Carnegie Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11th St., Dubuque
- Dubuque City Hall, 50 W. 13th St., Dubuque
- Leisure Services Office, 2200 Bunker Hill Road, Dubuque
- Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Court, Dubuque
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill, 14501 U.S. 20 W., Dubuque
- Dyersville City Hall, 340 First Ave. E., Dyersville
- Dubuque Regional Airport, 11000 Airport Road, Dubuque
- Worthington City Hall, 216 First Ave. W., Worthington
- RACOM Corporation, 3190 Cedar Cross Court, Dubuque

Dubuque County Library sites:

- 5900 Saratoga Plaza, Asbury
- 110 Bierman Road SE, Epworth
- 205 First St. NE, Farley
- 938 First St., Holy Cross

Delaware County sites:

- Earlville City Hall, 12 Southside Road, Earlville
  - Edgewood City Hall, 203 W. Union St., Edgewood
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**Roshek Earth Day Event**

Gather your old electronics and drop them off in the Roshek Building Lobby April 20-28 between 6:00am and 9:00pm. The following items will be accepted free of charge: batteries, cell phones, computers, computer hardware (printers, etc.), electronic office equipment, fax machines, light bulbs, phone equipment, stereos, VCR & DVD players. Due to disposal requirements, a \$7.00 recycling charge will be issued for computer monitors. Confidential bins will be provided for material to be shredded.

Tel: (563) 690-5738  
Email: [kmcelroy@ecia.org](mailto:kmcelroy@ecia.org)