

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

# OUR WATER

A PRICELESS NECESSITY

# HOW IMPORTANT IS WATER?

- WATER IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE PLANET.
  - HUMANS AND ANIMALS NEED CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO STAY HYDRATED.
  - BATHS, SHOWERS AND HANDWASHING KILL GERMS AND HELP US STAY HEALTHY.
  - FARMERS NEED CLEAN WATER FOR THE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.
  - WATER IS NEEDED TO BOIL, STEAM OR STEW FOOD.
  - AQUATIC PLANTS AND FISH GET NOURISHMENT FROM WATER.

# BELIEFS VS. BEST PRACTICES

- **BELIEF:** IT'S BEST TO RUN HOT SOAPY WATER TO CLEAN GREASE OFF DISHES.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** WIPE DISHES CLEAN WITH NAPKINS OR PAPER TOWELS BEFORE WASHING. REMOVE STUCK ON FOOD BY ADDING A FEW DROPS OF DISH DETERGENT AND WATER TO A DRY PAPER TOWEL. SPRINKLE A LITTLE BAKING SODA ON THE DISH AND RUB IT IN. WIPE THE PLATE WITH A CLEAN PAPER TOWEL BEFORE WASHING.
- **BELIEF:** IT'S OKAY TO USE THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL TO GET RID OF LEFTOVER FOOD.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** DISPOSALS REQUIRE RUNNING WATER WHILE GRINDING FOOD. THIS PROCESS ACTUALLY PUSHES WATER AND SOLIDS FURTHER DOWN THE LINE WHERE A STOPPAGE CAN OCCUR. ALWAYS WIPE FOOD SOLIDS INTO THE TRASH.
- **BELIEF:** EXPIRED MEDICINE CAN BE FLUSHED IN THE TOILET.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** EXPIRED MEDICINE STILL HAS A LEVEL OF POTENCY THAT CAN BE HARMFUL TO AQUATIC LIFE.
- MIX EXPIRED MEDICATIONS WITH KITTY LITTER IN A SEALED ZIP LOCK BAG. CONCEAL PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE CONTAINER. TOSS BOTH IN THE TRASH. CONTACT THE CITY OF HAMPTON SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO LEARN DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT DATES.

# BELIEFS VS. BEST PRACTICES

- **BELIEF:** WASHING MY CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY ISN'T HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** WASH THE CAR WITH ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANERS ON GRAVEL OR GRASS TO FILTER THE WATER.
- **BELIEF:** POURING WATER FROM WASHING MY WINDOWS IN THE STORM DRAIN AT THE CURB IS NOT HARMING THE ENVIRONMENT...THAT'S WHAT THE DRAINS ARE FOR.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** NEVER DUMP ANYTHING IN A STORMWATER DRAIN BECAUSE THE WATER IS NOT TREATED. THE DRAINS COLLECT RAIN WATER THAT IS RETURNED TO LOCAL WATERWAYS. DUMPING SOAPY WATER, GRASS CLIPPINGS, ETC., WILL UPSET THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM.
- **BELIEF:** WIPES THAT ARE MARKETED AS FLUSHABLE CAN BE FLUSHED IN THE TOILET.
- **BEST PRACTICE:** WIPES JAM OUR PUMP STATION EQUIPMENT AND MUST BE REMOVED BY HAND. DISPOSE OF ALL WIPES IN THE TRASH, EVEN WHEN THE PACKAGING STATES THEY ARE FLUSHABLE.

## SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

- PROPER GREASE DISPOSAL
- HOW WIPES DAMAGE OUR PUMP STATIONS
- PROTECTING OUR STORMWATER DRAINS
- WHY WE SHOULDN'T USE GARBAGE DISPOSALS

- TO GET RID OF **SMALL AMOUNTS** OF USED COOKING GREASE KEEP EMPTY CONTAINERS WITH SCREW ON CAPS.
- USE OLD POTTING SOIL, COFFEE GROUNDS OR SAND AS AN ABSORBENT. FILL THE CONTAINER HALF FULL OF GREASE THEN ADD ABSORBENT. SCREW THE CAP TIGHT AND TOSS THE CONTAINER IN THE TRASH.
- TO GET RID OF **LARGE AMOUNTS** OF USED COOKING GREASE, LINE A 5 GALLON BUCKET WITH A LARGE TRASH BAG. FILL THE BUCKET HALFWAY WITH SAND, OIL DRY OR DIRT. POUR IN OLD GREASE STIRRING AS YOU POUR. WHEN GREASE IS COMPLETELY ABSORBED AND THERE'S NO RUN OFF, TIE A KNOT IN THE BAG AND PUT IT IN THE TRASH.
- TO FIND DATES OF RECYCLING EVENTS IN HAMPTON CHECK THE VIRGINIA PENINSULAS PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (VPPSA) WEBSITE AT: [HTTPS://VPPSA.ORG](https://vppsa.org).



# LET'S KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN

- LEARN MORE WAYS TO  
PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT.

- GO TO:

[WWW.ASKHRGREEN.ORG](http://WWW.ASKHRGREEN.ORG)

