



The  
Voluntary  
Initiative

A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is suspended in mid-air above the surface, which is creating concentric ripples. The background is a solid, vibrant blue.

# Every drop counts: Keeping water clean

Turn over for the 8 things you can do to help

# When it comes to water protection, splashes and drips of pesticides can have a bigger effect than you might think.



## Why should you worry?

- Some pesticides are toxic to fish and other aquatic life; others can easily find their way into rivers and streams;
- Consumers do not want water with pesticides in it;
- It costs water companies and their customers millions of pounds every year to remove pesticides from raw water;
- Environment agencies can prosecute those who deliberately or accidentally pollute water.

## What can you do to help?

### The eight essentials to protect water

- 1 Planning: Know where the water is on your farm and where it drains to;
- 2 Consider whether using a pesticide is necessary in the first place;
- 3 Talk to your agronomist about the products you use, their risk to water and how to keep them out of water;
- 4 Clean up any spills or splashes immediately;
- 5 Pick your filling site with care – about 40% pesticide contamination of water is caused by run-off from farm yards;
- 6 Maintain your sprayer properly; stop leaks and drips;
- 7 When spraying, keep well away from watercourses, use a buffer strip and prevent drift;
- 8 Clean everything carefully afterwards and dispose of wastes safely and legally.

For more detailed advice please visit [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk)

or send for the free leaflet 'Every Drop Counts: Keeping Water Clean', available from the Crop Protection Association, 4 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RP.  
t: 01733 349225 f: 01733 562523 e: [info@cropprotection.org.uk](mailto:info@cropprotection.org.uk)

The Voluntary Initiative is a programme of measures, agreed by the Government, to minimise the environmental impact of pesticides.



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