



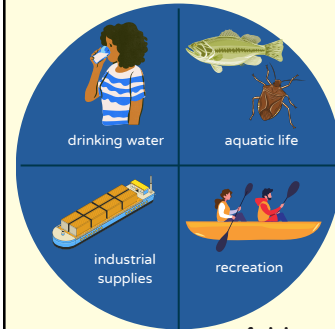
ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
orsanco.org/water-quality-information

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.

Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS)

NPS comes from many diffuse sources and occurs when runoff from rainfall or snowmelt move across and through the ground, picking up natural and man-made pollutants and depositing them into rivers, lakes, wetlands, coastal, and groundwater sources. NPS is the leading cause of water quality problems, and can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.



4 Uses

[Read More About What You Can Do To Prevent NPS](#)

[*EPA Non Point Source Pollution](#)

Sources of Pollution

Agriculture

(animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides)



Point Sources

(Smokestacks, discharge pipes, drainage ditches)



Urban
(oil, grease, household chemicals and detergents, pet waste, combined sewers and septic tanks)



Forests

(sediment, pathogens and bacteria from wildlife waste)



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- Ohio River states are responsible for performing potential contaminant source inventories for drinking water intakes within their boundaries. ORSANCO coordinates information exchange between states with its [Source Water Protection program](#).
- Excess nitrogen and phosphorus lead to significant water quality problems including harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and declines in wildlife and wildlife habitats. Read more about ORSANCO and partners' [nutrient reduction activities](#).
- The [Ohio River Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program](#) 1995-2010 identified pollutants within the Ohio River Basin to develop strategies at pollution reduction.



Ohio River Basin