



## Pollution Prevention Is Up To You!

Did you know that stormdrains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? In Pinellas County, stormdrains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico without treatment.

The primary purpose of stormdrains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Yard waste dumped into stormdrains carries garden chemicals into waterways, releases harmful pollutants and creates algae blooms which absorb oxygen fish need to survive. Disposing of yard waste into stormdrains causes serious ecological problems – and is PROHIBITED BY LAW.

## Only Rain Down the Stormdrain!

This brochure is one of a series describing storm water protection measures. To request additional brochures please contact:

Pinellas County Department of  
Environmental Management  
Watershed Management Division  
(727) 464-4425

Other brochures in this series include:

- ✓ Concrete and Mortar Projects
- ✓ Fertilizer Ordinance
- ✓ A Guide For Homeowners
- ✓ Pool Construction and Maintenance
- ✓ Power Washing



[www.pinellascounty.org/environment](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment)

Produced in cooperation with the Pinellas County Communications Department.

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## Preventing Urban Runoff Pollution

Best Management Practices for

## Landscaping Companies



## Pinellas County Stormwater Regulations

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article XIII, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our stormdrain system. The ordinance states that any discharge to the drainage system or to a waterway that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited. This means that **pollutants of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings and other yard waste may NOT be blown or swept to the street, gutter or stormdrain.**



## Fertilizer Regulation and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The following fertilizer regulations and BMPs are procedures that should always be used to encourage healthy yards and avoid polluting our waterways.

Fertilizer containing NITROGEN (N) and/or PHOSPHOROUS (P) cannot be used in landscapes between June 1 and September 30.

- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste and tree trimmings. Compost, use curbside pick-up or dispose of at a solid waste facility.
- Protect landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Ensure all employees are certified through an approved BMP training class. It's the law!
- Sweep or blow grass clippings, fertilizers, and pesticides AWAY from the road, parking lots and sidewalks and back onto landscaped areas.
- Never blow yard waste into the street or stormdrains.
- Ensure all chemicals and fuels are in covered storage. Train personnel in proper clean up and disposal procedures.
- Use pesticides sparingly and according to instructions on the label. If you're not following the label, you're breaking the law.
- Do not use pesticides or fertilizer within 10 feet of lakes, streams, ponds, drainage ditches and other surface waters.
- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- Granular fertilizer is limited to 4 pounds of N per 1,000 square feet per year.
- Liquid fertilizer is limited to half a pound of water soluble N per 1,000 square feet per application.
- Mulch mowing can eliminate or significantly reduce the need for fertilizer.
- Avoid mowing where the discharge chute faces toward the road or drainage ditches. Instead, mow toward the center of the lawn.
- Repair leaking equipment. Use oil absorber to collect the oil and dispose of in the trash. Recycle or dispose of fluids properly.
- Visit <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information tips on proper landscape maintenance. For example:
  - Mow high: St. Augustine grass should not be mowed lower than 3.5"
  - Do not over-prune palms — never remove green fronds



## Who To Contact:

For any questions on disposal of waste, contact the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500.

For information or to report illegal dumping, please call (727) 464-4425, e-mail [watershed@pinellascounty.org](mailto:watershed@pinellascounty.org) or visit [www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/StormwaterEd](http://www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/StormwaterEd)

24-hour hotline: (727) 464-5060 (non-emergency spills only)

Emergencies: Please contact your local fire department.