

## Pinellas County fertilizer regulations

Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article VIII, Chapter 58, regulates landscape maintenance practices and the sale and use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous to protect Pinellas County's aquatic environment.

Homeowners, landscapers and lawn care services **must protect our aquatic environment by following the practices described in the ordinance.**

Violators of the fertilizer ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day.

## Only rain down the drain!

This brochure is one of a series describing urban pollution prevention measures. To request additional brochures, please contact Pinellas County Environmental Management at (727) 464-4425.

## For more information

on what YOU can do to keep our waterways clean, our watersheds healthy or to report pollution, call the **Environmental Management Hotline** at (727) 464-4425 or email us at [watershed@pinellascounty.org](mailto:watershed@pinellascounty.org).



**Pinellas County Public Works**

Environmental Management  
(727) 464-4425

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



## Guide to the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance



# Fertilize Correctly

## Fertilizer usage best practices



Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants, such as fertilizer, pesticides and other landscape materials from entering our stormdrains and polluting our waterways:

- Keep nutrient pollution out of our waterways. A Pinellas County ordinance bans the sale and use of any lawn or landscape fertilizer with **nitrogen** or **phosphorous** from June 1 to September 30 to protect our aquatic environment during the rainy season. Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain iron and other micronutrients to ensure healthy lawns.
- All fertilizer applicators must display a Pinellas County vehicle decal. All landscape maintenance staff must display a Pinellas County vehicle decal.



**Watershed**  
where we **LiveWorkPlay**

- Reclaimed water can contain high amounts of nutrients; therefore fertilizers may not be needed. Visit the reclaimed water areas map on [www.pinellascounty.org/fertilizer](http://www.pinellascounty.org/fertilizer).
- Limit application to no more than 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet **per year**.
- **Avoid using phosphorous!** Only use phosphorous if a soil test says it is needed.
- **Protect our watershed!** Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from any seawall or body of water.



- Sweep it up. Whisk any fertilizer granules that fall onto sidewalks, streets or driveways back into the landscape.
- Watch the weather. Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer they wash it away – wasting your money and polluting our water.
- Ask for credentials when you hire landscape or fertilizer companies.

Due to years of excess use, Pinellas County waters have received too much nitrogen and phosphorous! We all pay for the treatment of our surface waters. **It is much more cost-effective to keep excess nutrients out of our waterways by using BMPs** than to remove the pollution once it is there.

## Pollution prevention is up to you!

Streets and stormdrains are part of the drainage system which protects developed areas from flooding. Everything that enters the streets and stormdrains flows directly into waterways without treatment and causes pollution.

## Who can you contact?

To report illegal dumping, or for more information, call (727) 464-4425, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions on waste disposal, contact Pinellas County Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500. For 24 hour voicemail (non-emergency spills only), call (727) 464-5060.

