



## What's the difference? Sanitary Sewer vs. Stormdrain

The water that drains down a sink or toilet in a home or business flows to the **sanitary sewer** and is treated at a wastewater treatment plant.

Stormdrains are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or treatment plant. The stormdrain system is designed to carry rainwater away from our homes to prevent flooding. Stormdrains flow directly to our ponds, lakes and streams, eventually discharging to the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.

## Only Rain Down the Stormdrain!

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

Pinellas County  
Watershed Management  
(727) 464-4425

Other brochures in this series include:

- ✓ Concrete and Mortar Projects
- ✓ Fertilizer Ordinance
- ✓ Landscaping Companies
- ✓ 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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## Guide for Homeowners Preventing Urban Runoff Pollution



**Doing your part to  
keep our waters clean.**

Here are a few things  
you can do to help!

## Pinellas County Stormwater Regulations

Pinellas County's stormwater ordinance, Article VI, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our drainage 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 household chemicals, leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your property may not enter the street, gutter or stormdrain.**

Violators of the stormwater ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day, and payment for cleanup costs may be required.



## Reducing Pollution From Your Home

There are many ways to keep your property looking great – while keeping harmful chemicals out of our waterways.

### Pool Maintenance

- Never drain chlorinated water to the street or stormdrain. Allow water to sit in the pool for several days, then test the chlorine level before draining.
- You can also drain water to vegetated areas such as lawns and gardens.
- Do not drain to roads, stormdrains or water ways! Particulate filter material, such as diatomaceous earth, may be raked into landscaped areas or disposed of in the trash.
- Connecting a discharge pipe from a pool to the county drainage system is illegal.

### Landscaping

- Do not use fertilizers with nitrogen or phosphorous from June through September.
- Compost or mulch leaves and grass clippings or bag them for trash pickup. Never rake or blow leaves into the street or stormdrain.
- Only irrigate during the early morning to avoid evaporation and lawn diseases. Always follow local watering restrictions.
- Time sprinklers to avoid over-watering and adjust sprinklers to avoid watering paved areas causing runoff.
- Limit pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use. When needed, apply at minimum recommended rates and in compliance with the Pinellas County Landscape Maintenance and Fertilizer Use Ordinance.
- Avoid using pesticides that eliminate beneficial insects. Check the label for targeted pests.

### Vehicle Washing and Maintenance

- Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash when possible. (Commercial car washes recycle water.)
- At home, wash vehicles over grass or gravel to prevent runoff; use as little soap and water as possible.
- Perform all vehicle maintenance indoors when possible and use drip pans to collect fluids from leaking vehicles.
- Clean up spills immediately using absorbent materials such as kitty litter or sand. Properly dispose of used absorbents.

### Household Hazardous Waste

- Keep lids on and label all storage containers; store household chemicals indoors or under a covered area not exposed to rain.
- Clean up all spills immediately using absorbent materials. Properly dispose of used absorbents.
- For free disposal of household chemicals, visit the Household Electronics and Chemicals Collection Center (HEC3), 2855 109th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, (727) 464-7500.

### Waste Management

- Keep the ground around all outdoor garbage and dumpster areas free of trash, sediment and debris.
- Keep lids on dumpsters and trash cans whenever possible.
- Fix any leaks in garbage cans or dumpsters.
- Clean up any spills immediately.

# Who To Contact?



**For any questions on disposal of fertilizers, pesticides, used oil and other chemicals, 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, email [watershed@pinellascounty.org](mailto:watershed@pinellascounty.org) or visit [www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/StormwaterEd](http://www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/StormwaterEd)

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

Emergencies: Please contact your local fire department.