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.

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.

Pinellas County stormwater regulations

Pinellas County’s stormwater ordinance, Article VI, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitat 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 leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings and other yard waste may **not enter the street, stormdrain or gutter**. Violators of the stormwater ordinance may be fined up to $10,000 per day, and payment for cleanup costs may be required.

Pinellas County Environmental Management
(727) 464-4425
www.pinellascounty.org/environment

**The health of our stormwater matters.**

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Landscape Maintenance

Best practices

Best management practices or BMPs are procedures that should be used to encourage healthy yards and prevent excess nutrients from entering our stormdrains and polluting our waterways:

- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste and tree trimmings. Compost, use curbside pick-up or dispose at a solid waste facility.
- Keep the clippings. Don’t blow your leaves or clippings into the road. Mulch them into the lawn. They can supply up to 50% of the nitrogen your grass needs.
- Prevent erosion by temporarily or permanently stabilizing loose soil.
- Ensure all landscape company employees are BMP certified - it’s the law!

Tips on proper landscape maintenance

- Mow high; St. Augustine and Bahia grass should not be mowed lower than 3.5 inches tall. This makes it more drought-tolerant and pest-resistant
- Do not over-prune palms; never remove green fronds
- Do not over water. Make sure sprinklers are adjusted to avoid hitting the road or driveway.

Visit [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu) for more information.

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.