

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.

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 Watershed 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 **Watershed Management Hotline** at **(727) 464-4425** or email us at watershed@pinellascounty.org.



Pinellas County
Environment and Infrastructure

Watershed Management
(727) 464-4425

www.pinellascounty.org/environment



Funding provided by the NPDES program. 3,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$177.00 or \$0.058 each.
Produced in cooperation with the Pinellas County Communications Department.
Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD). 09/14



Landscape Maintenance Best Management Practices



Keeping it Green

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!**

- Protect landscape materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting. Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.
- 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.
- Avoid mowing with the discharge chute facing toward the road or drainage ditches. Instead, mow toward the center of the lawn.



- Repair leaking equipment. Absorb fluids and recycle or dispose of them properly. Contact Pinellas County Solid Waste for details.

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> 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.



Watershed
where we **LiveWorkPlay**