

a **watershed**

is an **area of land** that water flows across as it moves **toward** a common **body of water** – like Lake Tarpon, Brooker Creek, Cross Bayou or the Gulf of Mexico.

On any given day in Pinellas County, it can rain. The rain water trickles off your roof, runs through your lawn and down the driveway to the street. It moves along the gutter to a storm drain, runs through underground pipes to a neighborhood pond or stream, then along larger drainage pipes into larger canals and waterways until it eventually washes into the open waters of Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico. And any trash, yard waste, pet waste or pesticides goes right along with it. This all happens in **our watershed**.

It's the Law

Pinellas County code prohibits the dumping of any waste, including chemicals, oil, sewage, trash and yard waste, into the street, storm sewer system or into any water body in the county. Fines of up to \$10,000 per violation plus clean-up costs can be levied against any perpetrator.

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



Pinellas County
Environmental Management
22211 U.S. Hwy. 19 N., Bldg. 10
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 464-4425

www.pinellascounty.org/watershed



Watershed

Where we **Live** **Work** **Play**



Make a difference!
Only rain
down the drain



We all live in a **watershed** and everything we do can affect the health and well-being of our **surrounding water bodies and natural floodplain areas**. **What you do** in and around your home and in your community **impacts our watershed**. We all share the responsibility so we can all make **simple changes** to help **prevent pollution** and promote a **healthy watershed** for all of us. **Only rain down the drain!** Keep debris and trash **out of the streets, streams and ditches** to prevent flooding and pollution.



Business waste can easily be forgotten. To prevent waste from overflowing, keep the dumpster lid closed, the drains plugged and have it emptied regularly. *Put trash in the dumpster!*



Discarded cigarette butts, the most frequently littered item, can travel along our streets, make their way into storm drains and can eventually end up at our beaches along the Gulf. This type of litter is also a hazard to birds and other wildlife. *Toss butts in the ashtray!*



Litter is a year-round problem. Trash left to pile up or thrown out the car window can cause unwanted storm drain blockages that may result in flooding. Prevent litter. *Put trash in the can!*



Pet waste left on the ground can wash into nearby water bodies spreading bacteria and diseases. Pet waste can create serious health concerns. *Pick up after your pets!*



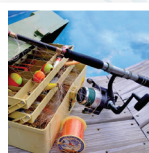
Grass clippings from a freshly mowed lawn are a problem when they leave the yard. Clippings can clog storm drains as well as deliver hazardous fertilizers and pesticides to nearby water bodies causing algae blooms and fish kills. *Keep lawn clippings on the grass ... bag or mulch it!*



A fun day outside usually calls for a healthy snack. Make sure everyone can enjoy the beauty around us by keeping snack bags and other trash out of the waterways. *Put snack bags in the trash!*



Plastic drink bottles are convenient, but not when they're on the ground. Don't create unsightly litter—recycle plastic! Learn how and where at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle. *Toss plastic in the recycle bin!*



Discarded fishing line creates a serious threat to our aquatic life and coastal birds. It's the #1 cause of injury to aquatic animals like sea turtles and manatees. Don't leave used fishing line hanging around. *Throw it in the tackle box!*



Never dump oil on the ground or down storm drains. Oil is toxic to plants and animals and can seep into groundwater used for drinking. Dispose of oil properly. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/oil.htm to find out how. *Keep oil in the can!*