

## Pollution Prevention is up to you!

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? In Pinellas County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico without treatment.

The primary purpose of storm drains are to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Yard waste dumped into storm drains carries garden chemicals into waterways, releases harmful pollutants, create algae blooms, and absorb oxygen fish need to survive. Disposing of yard waste into storm drains causes serious ecological problems– and is PROHIBITED BY LAW.



## Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm water protection measures. To request additional pamphlets please contact:

Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management  
Watershed Management Division  
(727) 464-4425

Other pamphlets in this series include:

- Power Washing
- Pool Construction and Maintenance
- Concrete and Mortar



## Preventing Urban Runoff Pollution



## Best Management Practices For Landscaping Companies

## Pinellas County Stormwater Regulations

Pinellas County's Stormwater Ordinance, Chapter 58, Article VI, 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 no pollutants of any kind, **including leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings, and other yard waste may be blown or swept to the street, gutter or storm drain.**

Violations of the Stormwater Ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day and payment for cleanup costs may be required.

### Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants, such as yard waste, from entering our storm drains and polluting our waterways.

- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Chip if necessary and compost or use curbside pick-up of yard waste. Place yard waste at the curb in approved bags or containers, or take it to a waste facility.

- Protect stockpiles and landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.



- Ensure all employees are trained in to prevent stormwater pollution, and are aware of all stormwater regulations affecting the landscaping businesses.

- Sweep or blow grass clippings, leaves, granular fertilizer, pesticides, and iron onto landscaped areas from the road, parking lots, and sidewalks. Do not blow or rake yard waste into the street, gutters, or stormdrains.

- Store all chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, fuel cans, etc. covered and out of the rain. Train all personnel in proper procedures to avoid and clean up spills.

- Use pesticides sparingly and according to instructions on the label. Rinse empty containers, and use rinse water as product. Dispose of rinsed, empty containers in the trash. Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste. Do not use pesticides and fertilizer within 10 feet of lakes, streams, ponds, drainage ditches, and other surface waters



- Schedule grading and excavation projects during dry weather.



- Do not over fertilize. Use an application rate suitable to the needs of the type of grass.

- Mulch-mow when ever possible. It can significantly reduce the need for fertilization.

- Avoid mowing where the discharge chute faces toward the road or drainage ditches. Instead mow toward the center of the law or use a bagger.

- If any equipment leaks oil, have the leak repaired, Use oil absorber to collect the oil and dispose of it in the trash. Utilize a drip pan to collect any leaking fluids until the equipment gets repaired and recycle or dispose of the fluids properly.

### Who Can You Contact?

For any questions on disposal of waste contact the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500

For more information, or to report illegal dumping, please call (727) 464-4425 (during business hours)

24 hour voice-mail: (727) 464-5060 (non-emergency spills only)

For Emergencies: Please contact your local fire department