"When It Rains, It Drains"

The Solution to Stormwater Pollution!

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks , it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy households habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clipppings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters.

Healthy Households Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest-resistant.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over-water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Pet Care

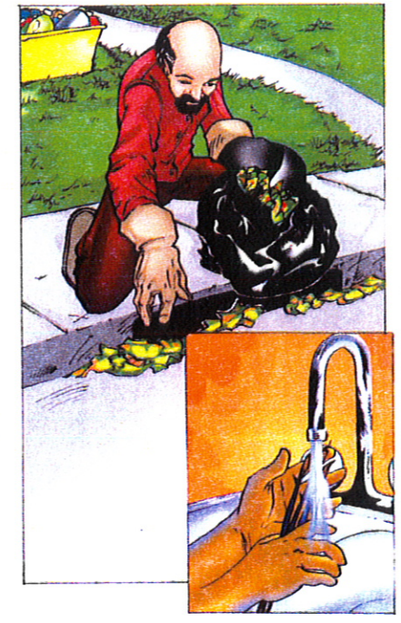
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.

Swimming Pool and Spa

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.

Septic System Use and Maintenance

- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).
- Care for the septic system drainfield by not driving or parking vehicles on it.
- Don't flush household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and anti-freeze and other items, such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter.



"When It Rains, It Drains"

STORMWATER POLLUTION INFORMATION HOTLINE:

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE 772-344-4319