

RESIDENTIAL STORMWATER TIPS FOR PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES

REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF AT HOME

Stormwater runoff from is defined as water from rainfall that does not infiltrate the land surface. The EPA has recognized that the #1 water quality impairment to US estuaries – and the Indian River Lagoon – is “nonpoint sources”. So if you enjoy boating & fishing on Turkey Creek or just like watching wildlife and want to help preserve their habitat, read on.....

WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source pollution is a diffuse soup of pollutants from our homes and businesses washing into our waterways by stormwater runoff or improper irrigation techniques. This **NPS is the PRIMARY SOURCE of pollution to the Indian River Lagoon**. Much of this man-made NPS can be prevented by adopting Best Management Practices or BMPs into our daily work and home routines.

WHAT ARE BMPs?

BMPs are any effective, practical measure used to control nonpoint sources of pollution and achieve better water quality. **When we use BMPs in our daily routine, we help to reduce flooding potential, replenish our local aquifers, and reduce many of the pollutants from stormwater runoff that flow into our waterways.** All residents and businesses can do their part to minimize stormwater impacts by initiating BMPs – blowing grass clippings back into grassy areas, keeping stormdrains in your neighborhood or business free of debris, properly disposing of your pet wastes, never route wastes to stormdrains, and use eco-friendly products everyday.

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

Illicit discharges are any discharges into our stormwater systems or waterways that are composed of non-storm water wastes. Sources of illicit discharges can be sanitary wastewater, septic tank effluent, improper oil and radiator waste disposal, improper disposal of household wastewater, cleaners and toxic products and improper routing of pool water.



Stormwater swales help recharge groundwater and keep pollutants and debris out of our waterways.

BY PRACTICING THE FOLLOWING STORMWATER BMPs, YOU CAN IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF TURKEY CREEK AND THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON!

Residential Stormwater Pollution Solutions

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Anything entering a stormwater system is discharged untreated into the waterways we use for swimming and fishing. To keep our waterways healthy, follow these simple guidelines.

- **KEEP stormwater curbs, swales and stormdrains trash and debris free.** Debris in our waterways increases the likelihood of algae blooms and low oxygen water, which cannot support aquatic or marine life.
- **DIRECT pressure washers to pervious or grassy surfaces** to minimize surface runoff.
- **WASH vehicles and equipment on grassy or pervious areas** where soapy water will seep into and replenish our shallow aquifer. Keep equipment well maintained to minimize oil and fuel leaks.
- **ROUTE washwater and equipment cleaning solutions to the sanitary sewer system.** Never dispose or pour solvents or cleaning solutions onto driveways, parking lots, sidewalks or streets.
- **RESPONSIBLY dispose of construction wastes and hazardous materials** - never in drainage swales or stormdrains.
- **BLOW grass clippings back onto grass or landscape areas.** Using a mulching mower returns nutrients to the soil and helps save landfill space. Grass clippings once in our waterways cause algae blooms, resulting in fish kills.
- **USE native plants and slow-release fertilizers and herbicides.** Water and fertilize sparingly. Do not apply herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers within 50 feet of our waterways and within 10 feet of paved surfaces.
- **KEEP sediment piles at least 10 feet away from waterways and 6 feet from paved areas** to minimize stormwater runoff. Cover or contain sediment piles when possible.
- **PICK up and properly dispose of pet wastes.** Pet waste can carry disease and nutrients which make our waterways unsafe for swimming and fishing.
- **NEVER drain pools to a waterway, stormdrain or street** - chlorine and pool chemicals are toxic to our waterways. Allow small amounts of pool water to slowly percolate into grassy or pervious areas. For large amounts of pool water, contact the Palm Bay Utility for sanitary sewer disposal.

