

“Green” Landscaping Practices

You can make a difference in keeping local lakes, streams and wetlands clean, healthy and beautiful by practicing “green” landscaping.

Reduce Pollutants

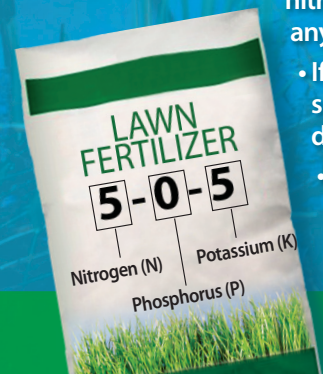
- Do not apply chemicals/fertilizers before heavy rains, avoiding fertilizing between June 1 to September 30.
- Use mulch (not cypress) to prevent weeds and erosion.



- Adopt practices that prevent pest problems and decrease chemical use.
- Identify pests before spraying and use the least-toxic pesticide.
- Buy pesticide in amounts you will use and follow label directions.
- Install swales and rain gardens to keep stormwater on site.

Follow Orange County's Fertilizer Ordinance

- Use phosphorus-free fertilizers.
- Use fertilizers containing at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen.
- For lawns, apply no more than one pound total nitrogen per 1000 square feet at any one application.
- If you use a broadcast spreader, it must have a deflector shield.
- Keep all fertilizers, year round, at least 15 feet away from wetlands or surface waters.



Yard Waste

- Use leaves and pine needles as mulch.
- Compost yard waste and kitchen scraps.

Conserve Irrigation Water

- Utilize Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.
- Turn off irrigation during Florida's rainy season (June 1 - Sept. 30).
- Install a rain or moisture sensor.
- Direct sprinkler heads toward the landscape, away from paved surfaces.
- Inspect sprinkler heads and downspouts often and repair when needed.
- Use a rain barrel to capture runoff to use later for irrigation.
- Fix leaky hoses and dripping outside faucets.

Maintain Wetland Buffer and Shoreline Vegetation

- Replant white-sand beaches with native aquatic vegetation.
- If you have waterfront property or live next to a wetland, maintain 10 feet of low-maintenance zone (a planted area with no fertilizing or mowing) between your landscaping and any waterway's normal high water mark.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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Help Prevent Water Pollution



Pick-up after your pet and put it in the trash.



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What is stormwater pollution?



Stormwater pollution starts when rain falls on and flows over sidewalks, driveways, streets, vacant lots, parking areas, sports fields, rooftops, turf or other developed

land. The rain picks up and mixes with pollutants and excess nutrients on the ground.

Ultimately, polluted stormwater runoff empties into Orange County's many lakes, streams and wetlands. This contributes to poor water quality and algal blooms.

Stormwater runoff can erode shorelines destroying aquatic habitats, which harms and can kill fish and wildlife.

By changing a few habits, we can all reduce stormwater impacts and help keep our community clean, safe and healthy.

At Home

- Help control litter by securing trash cans to keep animals out.
- Inspect and pump septic tanks regularly.
- Use non-hazardous household cleaning products.
- Never allow anything but rainwater to flow into the street and down storm drains.



- Use paints, solvents and cleaners sparingly. Store properly to avoid spilling.
- When using water-based paint, brush-out as much paint as possible, then rinse brushes and rollers in the sink. (If you have a septic tank then rinse them over the grass.) Take unwanted paint to the HHW collection center.
- For oil-based paints, brush-out as much paint as possible, then clean brush with thinner. Filter and reuse thinner.
- Dispose of unneeded chemicals at a



household hazardous waste (HHW) collection center.

- Sweep up dirt, debris and fertilizer spills. Hosing off pavement washes pollutants into storm drains.
- Contain/cleanup spilled fluids immediately with rags or cat litter and properly dispose of the waste at a HHW collection center.
- Take your vehicle to a car wash or wash your car on the lawn to reduce runoff.

Use a nozzle to shut off water while washing.

- Always discharge water from your pool to a landscaped area, after chlorine and saline levels are at zero. Never discharge your pool, spa, or fountain water to a driveway, sidewalk, street, storm drain or stormwater pond.



Pets

- Treat dip and other flea protection products as household hazardous waste. Never dispose of flea dip on the ground, in storm drain or down a sink.
- Check with your veterinarian for alternative safe tick and flea treatments.
- Pick up pet waste.

