



## ***Protecting our rivers, lakes and streams***

Stormwater runoff is water that runs off or flows over the ground after a rainstorm. This water picks up debris, chemicals, soil, yard waste, fertilizer, motor oil and other pollutants.

Storm water is carried into retention ponds or directly into local waterways through storm drains that eventually reach our major lakes and rivers.

Waterways can be easily polluted through the way we all approach some common behaviors — applying fertilizers and pesticides; clearing grass clippings from yards, driveways and sidewalks; driving vehicles; flushing toilets; washing laundry; and chemical disposal.

Some behaviors can be easily modified to reduce and eliminate impacts to our waterways. On the back of this card you will find some practices that we can all follow to help protect our rivers, lakes and streams.

## Fertilize wisely

- Apply fertilizers sparingly, if at all.
- Choose fertilizers with low or no phosphates.
- Follow the directions on the product.
- Choose slow-release fertilizers.
- Fertilize only during the growing season.

## Use chemicals responsibly

- Use pesticides, herbicides and fungicides only when needed.
- Follow the directions on the product.
- Apply only on areas needing treatment.
- Consider organic or nontoxic products.

## Minimize harm from stormwater runoff

- Don't blow yard waste and grass clippings into streets or storm drains.
- Repair automobile leaks.
- Don't dump oils, chemicals or paint in your yard or down storm drains.
- Dispose of antifreeze, motor oil and batteries at designated collection centers.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.

## Maintain septic systems

- Have the system inspected at least every three years.
- Avoid overuse of household cleaning chemicals.
- Never flush garbage or toxic materials — papers, plastics, diapers, cat litter, pesticides — into the system.
- Keep trees and shrubbery more than 30 feet away from the drainfield.
- Never allow vehicles to drive across or park on the drainfield.



St. Johns River Water Management District  
4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429  
(800) 725-5922

Visit us on the Internet at [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com).