

LANDSCAPING & LAWN CARE

Landscaping and lawn care practices have a significant impact on stormwater runoff. Conventional lawn care practices often include:

- Watering too frequently
- Over fertilizing
- Use of pesticides/herbicides to rid lawn of unwanted pests and nuisance/invasive plants

Excess nutrients and pesticides wash away during rain events or when lawns are over watered. The recommended practices for stormwater-friendly lawn care include:

- Choose native plants which have deeper, thicker root systems and are acclimated to our climate.
- Test soils to see if it has the correct amount of nutrients and pH without needing more fertilizer. If fertilizer is needed, only use enough to correct nutrient deficiencies.
- Mix compost with soil during planting.
- Limit grass areas in favor of natural landscaping or pervious surfaces.
- Lay mulch at least three inches thick to keep soil moist, prevent weeds, and prevent soil erosion.
- Practice regular maintenance.
- Use organic alternatives when fertilizers or pesticides are necessary.
- Fertilizers should not be used within 5 feet of pavement, with 25 feet of a catch basin, and within 50 feet of a stream.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

As part of the federal Clean Air Act, the EPA regulates the operation of most municipal drainage systems (pipes, drains, ponds, etc.) They also regulate all industrial activity with any potential to affect surface water quality. Included in the definition of industrial activities are any land disturbing activities or construction.

The City is required to operate a compliance inspection program to ensure that activities within the City do not negatively impact surface water quality. As part of compliance, City personnel developed a detailed Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) which outlines actions to be taken by the City over the 5-year period of the permit.

The City of Panama City Beach is dedicated to stormwater management. The department uses best management practices to reduce the amount of water quality impacts from construction projects, installs storm drain systems to most efficiently channel and provide for the clarity of roadside runoff and more.

City of Panama City Beach Public Works
116 S. Arnold Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
(850) 233-5100, Ext. 2400
www.pcbfl.gov

MANAGING ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Illicit discharge is anything entering a roadway drainage system that is not natural stormwater.

This can include pesticides, construction materials or dirt, materials from neighboring properties and roadway runoff containing vehicle oil, chemicals and fertilizers.

Any water reaching a storm drain directly enters our water system or natural environment with no filtration.



ILLICIT DISCHARGE & ILLEGAL DUMPING CONTROL

Below is a storm drain stencil. Stencils are painted near storm drains to remind residents and businesses not to dump into the drain.

Illegal dumping control is necessary to help reduce the number of pollutants entering the storm drains, where only stormwater should go.



- One quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.
- Batteries should never be stored outside where they can be exposed to precipitation and stormwater runoff. They contain acid and heavy metals and should be disposed of properly.
- Do not wash out paint cans into the storm drain.
- Car washes drain their wastewater into sewer systems so it gets treated before it is discharged back into the water system.
- Decomposing vegetative matter in storm gutters and drains leaches nutrients and can clog storm systems and result in flooding.



Pet waste can also be a source of bacteria and other pathogens in our waterways if exposed to stormwater runoff. Clean up pet waste on a regular basis.

Swimming pool water disposal tips

- Allow water to infiltrate through grass, bio-retention areas or swale or permeable surface rather than driveways or streets.
- Keep water in the pool or hot tub for at least two weeks without adding more chlorine. This allows the chlorine to dissipate and solids to settle.
- Do not dump solids or chlorine with pool water.
- Do not discharge on adjacent properties or public right of way.
- Follow all local ordinances.

VEHICLE WASHING

Vehicle washing on impervious surfaces or even lawns sends polluted water directly into the storm drain. Washing vehicles in the wrong location, such as a driveway or street, is like washing your car directly in a stream.

When washing your vehicle, take it to a commercial car wash facility. Wash water from vehicle washing can contain a variety of pollutants, including detergents, oils, grease, and dirt.

Municipal vehicles including fire trucks, emergency vehicles, and road maintenance fleets typically have sediment, oil, or other particles on them that end up in bodies of water when they are washed or blow off the vehicles.

Soap, detergents, and vehicle/equipment cleaners are often used in the washing process. These pollutants, especially detergents, can have harmful effects on bodies of water.

