

Protect Our Surface Water!



The Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management offers you the following tips on how to help save our waterways from sources of pollution.

Used Oil and Household Hazardous Waste

Yes! Dispose used oil, paint cleansers, and other household chemicals at a designated collection center. Contact the Solid Waste Authority at 640-4000 for information on proper disposal, locations, and operating hours of the nearest center. Check your car for leaks and have them repaired or contained with drip pans.

Don't pour oil or any other chemical down any drain or on any surface which will affect the environment. These materials may be toxic to humans, fish, birds, or plants.

Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers

Yes! Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers as needed, but only in the amounts described on the label. Dispose of used containers and any residues properly.

Don't use excessive amounts of lawn chemicals. Limit spraying around water bodies. Don't use lawn chemicals when rain is likely. Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic and fertilizers add nutrients to water bodies and can cause excessive algae growth.

Yard Waste

Yes! Place your leaves, grass clippings, and small pieces of yard waste into a bag and properly dispose of them on the designated yard trash pick up day. Also, consider using the material as mulch or start a compost pile.

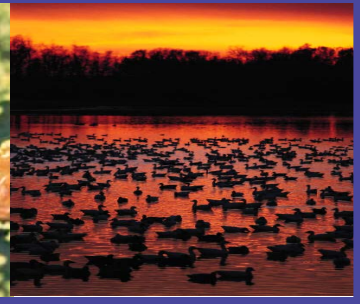
Don't sweep or blow grass clippings into the street. When the material reaches a surface water body, it can decompose and contribute to excess algae growth. This may result in a fish kill.

Car Washing

Yes! If at all possible wash your car on your lawn and let the soapy water wet your lawn. This will help conserve water. Consider taking your car to a commercial car washing facility where water is recycled and treated before it is released to the sewer.

Don't wash your car on impervious surfaces. Run off from wash water can add nutrients to surface water bodies and contribute to algae growth and oxygen depletion.

It's Up to You!



Palm Beach County has over 1,000 miles of canals and waterways. In addition it has Lake Okeechobee, the Grassy Waters Preserve, the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge, the Atlantic Ocean and thousands of public and private manmade lakes. All of these water bodies are subject to pollution and degradation from poor disposal practices by residents and visitors.

Even though you may not live near one of the water bodies mentioned above, your drainage system is designed to ultimately empty into one. When someone pours or drops a chemical or places yard clippings on a street, the material or its residue will eventually be transported to a surface water body. Any of this material can create serious damage to our water environment.

Pollutants such as oils, paints, cleansers, pesticides, and herbicides can create problems to the environment by causing a chemical imbalance in the water. The resulting pollution can be toxic to humans and lethal to fish, birds, and aquatic vegetation.

Grass clippings, leaves, other yard waste, and nutrients from soap and fertilizers contribute to algae blooms. Decomposition of algae competes with fish for the available oxygen dissolved in the water. The fish lose the competition. Without dissolved oxygen, fish become stressed and die.

Pollution of the surface water is such a concern and problem that Palm Beach County has an ordinance which prohibits the disposal of pollutants into water bodies or the drainage system. However, only YOU as an individual have the power to actually decrease the pollution of the water. Please help us—Use the tips offers as guidelines to decrease pollution!

Your cooperation is necessary for the success of this program!



**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners**

**For additional information, contact:
Department of Environmental Resources Management
2300 N. Jog Road - Fourth Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
Phone: (561) 233-2400
www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm**

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