

VEHICLE WASHING

Vehicle washing on impervious surfaces or even lawns sends polluted water directly into the storm drain. This image represents how 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 them to a



commercial car wash facility. Wash water from vehicle washing can contain a variety of pollutants, including detergents, oils and 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.

LANDSCAPING AND 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 or 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. Native plants have deeper, thicker root systems than grass and are acclimated to our climate.
- Test Soils. Soils often have the correct amount of nutrients and pH without needing more fertilizer. If fertilizer is needed, only use enough to correct the nutrient deficiencies.
- Mixing compost with soil during planting.
- Limit grass areas in favor of natural landscaping, or pervious surfaces.
- Lay mulch at least three inches thick. This keeps soil moist, prevents weeds, and prevents soil erosion.
- Regular Maintenance.
- Use Organic alternatives when fertilizers or pesticides are necessary.
- FERTILIZERS should not be used within five feet of pavement, with 25 feet of a catch basin, and within 50 feet of a stream.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

As part of the federal Clean Air Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency regulates the operation of most municipal drainage systems (pipes, drains, ponds, etc.)

In addition, 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.



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CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

MANAGING ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Illicit discharge is anything entering a roadway drainage system that is not natural stormwater. Pesticides, construction dirt or materials, as well as materials from neighboring properties and roadway runoff containing fertilizers, vehicle oil and chemicals are examples.

It's important to remember that any water reaching a storm drain directly enters our water system or natural environment with **no filtration.**

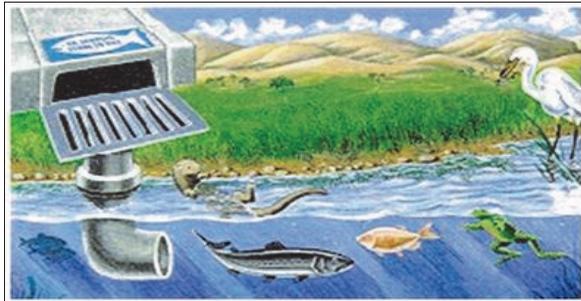


ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLEGAL DUMPING CONTROL

DRAINS ARE FOR RAIN FLOWS TO WATERWAY



- Above is an Example of a storm drain stencil.
- Stencils are painted near storm drains to remind residents not to dump into the drain.
- Illegal dumping control is necessary to help reduce the number of pollutants entering the storm drains, where only storm-water is supposed to go.



THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



Report Water Pollution

- One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water.
- DO NOT store batteries outside where they can be exposed to precipitation and storm-water runoff. They contain acid and heavy metals and should be disposed of properly.
- Car wash facilities drain their waste water into sewer system so it gets treated before it is discharged back into the water system.
- Keep storm gutters and drains clean of leaves and yard trimmings. Decomposing vegetative matter leaches nutrients and can clog storm systems and result in flooding.

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

THIS IS CONSIDERED AN IMPROPER WAY TO DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS BELOW



Chlorinated water disposal

Tips for residents:

- Allow water to infiltrate through grass, bio-retention area or swale, or permeable surface rather than driveways or streets.
- Keep water in the pool or hot tub for at least two (2) 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 others' property.
- Follow all local ordinances.



TIPS TO REDUCE HOUSEHOLD WATER POLLUTION

- Keep your car in good repair. Leaking vehicle oil and chemicals can be transported into local waterways with stormwater runoff.
- Recycle used oil and antifreeze at service stations and other recycling centers. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches.
- Used vehicle batteries should be disposed of at appropriate recycling centers and not as general refuse. Spent vehicle batteries contain acid and heavy metals and therefore need to be disposed of properly.
- Perform vehicle maintenance inside or under cover whenever possible. Immediately clean up spilled vehicle fluids, solvents and other chemicals to prevent water and soil contamination.
- Be aware that many chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Use non-toxic substitutes and low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents whenever possible.
- Never pour unwanted chemicals (i.e. paint, pesticides) on the ground or down the drain. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they could eventually contaminate runoff.

