

## **Pet Care**

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

## **Swimming Pool and Spa**

Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.

Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.

Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

## **Septic System Use and Maintenance**

Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary.

Care for the septic system drain field by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over or near the drain field to avoid damage.

Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system.

For more information about pollutants and what you can do to help the environment please visit the following links.

[www.swfwmd.org](http://www.swfwmd.org)

[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

[www.palmettofl.org](http://www.palmettofl.org)

## **SAVE OUR WATERS**



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# **CITY OF PALMETTO**



**MAKE YOUR HOME THE SOLUTION  
TO STORMWATER  
POLLUTION**

**A homeowner's guide to healthy  
habits for clean water**



**As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.**

**By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!**

## Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

### *Vehicle and Garage*

Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on the lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.

Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.

Recycle used motor oil and other Automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

### *Lawn and Garden*

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought-and-pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day and don't let run off into the storm drain.

### *Home Repair and Improvement*

Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.

Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.

Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label.

Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely.

Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.

Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.