

# Pointless Personal Pollution

Pollutants from our homes and businesses are major contributors to the pollution of Florida's surface and ground waters. This pollution is washed into the City's waters by rain or irrigation and is known as **Pointless Personal Pollution**. Unlike many other types of pollution, WE cause this pollution and WE can stop it!

Take a look around your home and property. You can find many sources of **Pointless Personal Pollution** that could end up in the City's waters, such as:

- Sediments from soil erosion caused by unvegetated soils and by uncontrolled construction activities.
- Automotive and lawn equipment oil and grease leaking on paved areas, or improper disposal of used oil and other products into storm drains.
- Runoff of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens.
- Organic contaminants from litter, yard trash, pet wastes, and garbage from dumpsters and garbage cans.

What can you do to reduce **Pointless Personal Pollution**?

- **Shop Wisely:** Buy products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorous, or water soluble. WHY--They readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground water.
- **Store Products Safely:** Keep toxic products in original containers, closed and clearly marked, in safe storage places. WHY--To prevent spillage or accidents to children or pets.
- **Compost Leaves, Grass and Scrub Clippings:** Use as mulch for fertilizer and do not rake or blow into the roadways. WHY--These materials will decompose and return nutrients to the soil and avoid the necessity of applying fertilizers.
- **Use Garden and Lawn Chemicals Wisely:** Follow package directions carefully and only use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers when other methods fail. Do not apply if rain is in the forecast. WHY--Excessive fertilizers and chemicals wash off the property and into surface and ground waters.
- **Keep Irrigation Water on the Lawn & Garden (Not on Paved Surfaces):** Divert rain spouts onto unpaved areas or swales, and wash vehicles on vegetated areas. WHY--This allows runoff to soak into the soil and not wash over paved surfaces into nearby waterbodies.
- **Don't Drain Used Motor Oil into Storm Drains:** Take used motor oil and antifreeze to service stations to recycle them. WHY--These products are toxic and add pollutants to surface waters if placed or washed into storm drains.
- **Service Your Car Regularly:** Have your car inspected and maintained regularly. WHY--To prevent leakage of motor oil, antifreeze and other fluids which can end up in the nearest waterbody. Well maintained vehicles also reduce air emissions which can contaminate surface waters.

**Clean Water:**  
**If We All Do A Little, We Can Do A Lot**