

What is Stormwater Runoff and Why is it a Problem?

Whenever it rains, water flows across our streets, driveways, lawns and sidewalks washing soil particles, pesticides, pet wastes, oil and other pollutants into the storm drainage systems. These systems then direct the stormwater in to the our local water bodies, i.e. Crane Creek, Eau Gallie River, and the Indian River Lagoon. The first inch of runoff from a storm generally carries 90% of the stormwater pollution. This polluted stormwater runoff does not get treated by the wastewater treatment plant.

Where you can go to get more information.

- Florida Yards and Neighborhoods - www.floridayards.org
- Solid Waste Management Department - www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/Home
- Melbourne's Stormwater Utility - www.melbourneflorida.org/departments/engineering/stormwater-utility
- How Do I Report a Problem - www.melbourneflorida.org/how-do-i/report-a-problem
- Brevard County Property Appraiser's Office - www.bcpao.us
- St. Johns River Water Management District - www.sjrwmd.com

City of Melbourne NPDES Stormwater Program

900 East Strawbridge Avenue
Melbourne, Florida 32901
(321) 608-7341

For more information visit:
www.melbourneflorida.org/stormwater



Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Runoff Pollution Prevention



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Landscaping

By following these easy suggestions, you can maintain a beautiful landscape that saves you time, energy and money while protecting our water resources.

- Select native species that are drought tolerant.
- St. Johns River Water Management District rules allow for watering no more than 2 times per week. Water less if adequate rainfall has been received, and only between the hours of 4 PM and 10 AM.
- Use pesticides and fertilizer sparingly. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain. Adhere to the fertilizer ban from June 1st to September 30th.
- Compost grass clippings or place loose clippings (i.e., leaves, grass, pine needles or shrubbery cuttings) into a 32-40 gallon garbage can. Do NOT bag yard waste or place loose clippings on or near a storm drain.

Pools

- It is illegal to drain your chlorinated pool water into a storm drain, ditch, canal, and/or water body.

Pet Waste

- Clean up after your pets at home and in the community. Pet waste can spread disease and pollute our waterways.
- Scoop waste up and place it in the trash.

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial carwash or wash your car on gravel, grass, or loose soil so soapy water (biodegradable soap) can filter through soil instead of running off into a storm drain.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery for leaks and make repairs ASAP.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material, such as kitty litter, and dispose of it at the Sarno Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Recycle used oils and automotive fluids at participating service stations or bring them to the Sarno Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

Painting Activities

- Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Do not pour the rinse water down a storm drain, ditch, canal, and/or water body.
- Excess paint may be taken to the Sarno Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

Pressure Washing

- Minimize the amount of water used during pressure washing duties.
- Do not use a cleaner unless you really need one - and if you do, just spot treat.

Kitchen Grease

Grease blockages in the sanitary sewer system can cause raw sewage discharges into our natural water systems and can result in sewage backing up into your house.

- Collect cooking grease in a container such as a coffee can and then throw it in the trash after it has cooled.
- Wipe excess grease out of pans with a paper towel.

Septic Systems

To increase the efficiency of your system and protect water quality:

- Use water efficiently.
- Have your septic tank evaluated (and pumped as recommended) by a professional every 3-5 years.
- Certain cleaning products and toilet paper products are not recommended for use with septic tanks. Read and adhere to manufacturer's guidelines and warning labels. Do NOT flush wet wipes.
- Bring unused or unwanted household chemicals to the Sarno Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. If you have questions about what they'll accept at the facility, call (321) 255-4365.

What is the City of Melbourne Doing to Protect Our Water?

The City of Melbourne is committed to creating projects and programs to reduce pollutants in our stormwater runoff. In 1999, City Council established a Stormwater Utility Fund.

The Stormwater Utility Fund provides the capital for projects such as treatment ponds, new storm drain pipes, the installation of nutrient separating baffle boxes, and other stormwater enhancement projects. Additionally, the fund has provided for the purchase of equipment to help achieve pollution reduction goals, such as street sweeping.

Public Education is also an important focus. As part of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the City of Melbourne regularly sends out educational materials to the general public. We also send industry specific brochures to local businesses, to further educate their staff.

Additionally, our Environmental Community Outreach department goes to local schools to educate school-aged kids about pollution prevention, stormwater education and environmental stewardship.

If you would like more information, please see the City's Stormwater website at: www.melbourneflorida.org/stormwater or call the Stormwater Hotline at 321-608-7341.