



Pollution Prevention Is Up To You!

Did you know that stormdrains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? In Pinellas County, stormdrains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico without treatment.

The primary purpose of stormdrains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Contaminated wash water and construction materials washed into stormdrains carry chemicals and harmful pollutants which can cause fish kills. Disposing of yard waste into stormdrains causes serious ecological problems – and is PROHIBITED BY LAW.

Only Rain Down the Stormdrain!

This brochure is one of a series describing storm water protection measures. To request additional brochures please contact:

Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management
Watershed Management Division
(727) 464-4425

Other brochures in this series include:

- ✓ Concrete and Mortar Projects
- ✓ Fertilizer Ordinance
- ✓ A Guide For Homeowners
- ✓ Landscaping Companies
- ✓ Power Washing



www.pinellascounty.org/environment

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Preventing Urban Runoff Pollution

Best Management Practices For

Pool Construction and Maintenance



Pinellas County Stormwater Regulations

Pinellas County's Stormwater Ordinance, Article VI, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitats of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our drainage system. The ordinance states that any discharge to the drainage system or to a waterway, that is not composed entirely of stormwater, is prohibited.

This means that no pollutants of any kind may be discharged to the storm sewer system. Pollutants include pool filter backwash (such as diatomaceous earth), chlorinated pool water, masonry material and concrete washout. The storm sewer system includes roadways, storm drains, ponds or other waterways. Chlorinated pool water and filter backwash can adversely affect aquatic plants and animals. Concrete washout hardens in pipes, which may lead to blockages and flooding.

Additionally, connecting a discharge pipe from a pool to the county drainage system is illegal.

Violators of the Stormwater Ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day, and payment for cleanup of illegal discharges may be required.

Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants, such as contaminated wash water and construction materials, from entering our storm drains and polluting our waterways.

- Before draining, allow water to sit in the pool for several days to dissipate the chlorine. Test the water to ensure chlorine has dissipated before draining.
- Drain water to vegetated areas such as a lawn or garden.
- Particulate filter material such as diatomaceous earth must be disposed of in a dumpster or other approved receptacle.
- During pool construction, prevent track out by having a designated construction entrance stabilized with gravel or wheel wash. Sweep up any material tracked onto the roadway daily.
- Do not store construction materials (sand, gravel, etc.) in the road. Keep all materials within the construction site property.
- Have an equipment washout area at construction sites where the masonry or concrete residue can harden. Hardened material can then be disposed of in a dumpster or other appropriate receptacle. A washout area can be made from staked hay bales and plastic sheeting. Pump the concrete washout back into the mixer for reuse.
- Protect stormwater curb and drop inlets that receives stormwater runoff from the construction site with appropriate protection devices.
- Store construction materials under a cover and ensure products are protected from wind, rain and runoff. Open bags of particulate, granular or powdered materials should be stored indoors if possible. If stored outside, bags need to be covered or closed and should be kept in secondary containment.
- Keep all oil, fuel and other chemicals properly contained and out of the rain.
- If equipment leaks occur, make sure the leak is repaired as soon as possible. Use an absorbent material such as clay or kitty litter to collect the free product and dispose of the absorbed materials in the trash. Utilize a drip pan to collect any leaking fluids, and recycle or dispose of the fluids properly. Train all personnel in proper procedures to avoid and clean up spills.



Who To Contact:

For any questions on disposal of waste, contact the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500.

For information or to report illegal dumping, please call (727) 464-4425, e-mail watershed@pinellascounty.org or visit www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/StormwaterEd

24-hour hotline: (727) 464-5060 (non-emergency spills only)

Emergencies: Please contact your local fire department.