

## HOW DOES WATER QUALITY AFFECT US?

- Polluted stormwater affects drinking water sources, which can affect human health and water treatment costs.



- Debris like plastic bags, cigarette butts and bottles can choke and suffocate aquatic life.



- Excess sediment clouds the water and can destroy our aquatic habitats.
- Land animals and people can be poisoned from eating diseased fish and shellfish.

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS

### Septic Tank Maintenance



Septic tanks are out of sight and out of mind — until there's a problem. Proper operation and maintenance of your septic system can save you money, protect your family's health and protect nearby streams and rivers.

- Have your septic system inspected at least every 2 to 3 years and pump as recommended.
- Think Before You Flush: Paper, plastics, diapers and cigarette filters do not decompose. These materials clog the system and increase maintenance needs.
- Avoid using septic tank cleaning compounds to maintain the tank's efficiency.

For more information, please contact the Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division at (772) 288-5927, ext.3

## Clean Water is Everybody's Business



When it rains or when you use water in your yard, runoff is created. As the water runs across the land, it picks up pollution on its way to the nearest water body. Pollutants include fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste and grass clippings, among other things. How can we reduce this pollution which threatens our beautiful bodies of water?



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Walking the Dog

Remember to pick up and flush pet waste in order to dispose of it properly.



### Washing the Car

Try to wash your car on the yard so that the water soaks into the ground, or go to a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater.

### Caring About Auto Care

Repair car leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

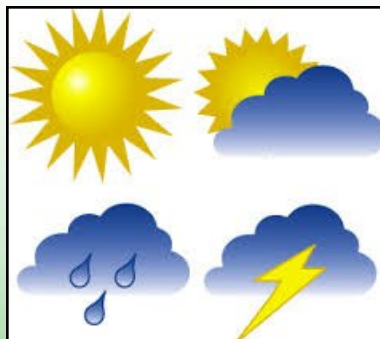
## SMALL STEPS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

### Find Your Comfort Zone

Maintain a 10-foot unfertilized buffer area around water bodies. This will help prevent the fertilizer from directly entering these bodies of water.

### Be a Know-It-All

Learn to use the information printed on the labels of the lawn care products you buy. Using the right amount, the right way, during the right times of the year will help you attain a healthy lawn.



### Check the Weather

Do not apply chemicals when it rains. They may wash into our rivers, lakes and groundwater.

## YOU AND YOUR LAWN

### Limit Fertilizer Applications

Limit application of chemicals and apply properly. Too much fertilizer will actually hurt your lawn and the environment.



### Plant the Right Plants

Plants native or adapted to Florida make sense. Ask a local landscape professional or your county extension agent to recommend the proper plants and grasses for your area.

### Train Your Lawn

Proper watering conserves water, reduces runoff, produces healthy roots and trains your lawn to be more drought tolerant.