

Why worry about Polluted Runoff from Stormwater?

Everyday you may make choices that improve the water quality in our streams, rivers, and bays. The best part is, it's simple!

What we do on the land directly affects the health of our waters. Imagine streets, parking lots, and yards after a heavy rain. Everything looks clean and refreshed, right?

Well, the stormwater washed all of that 'stuff' somewhere and that somewhere is probably down a storm drain or ditch



directly into our creeks, rivers, or bays.

That's right, the stormwater doesn't receive treatment to clean it up, so whatever was on the streets, parking lots, and yards ends up in the waters we all use for swimming, fishing, and even drinking.

Typical pollutants that are washed into our waters include **pet waste, pesticides, trash, sediment, fertilizers, and oil & gas**. By decreasing excess amounts of these pollutants in and around your home or office, you can immediately improve the quality of stormwater running off your area and into your local streams, rivers, and bays!



Printed on recycled paper



**Healthy waters, healthy communities:
A call to action**



Funding for this program was provided by the William T. Grant Foundation and was made possible by the World Wildlife Fund and Mobile Bay Watch/Bay Keeper, Inc. Funding was also provided in part by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (Award #NA98OZ0152) and is partly a result of research sponsored by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and NOAA, Office of Sea Grant, Department of Commerce, under Grant #NA96RG0039.

Clean Water Guardians
Homeowner Water Quality Action Tips

15 simple things *YOU* can do to
improve our water quality

- Select at least **FIVE** of the practices on this sheet to implement in your home, yard, office or garden.
- Return this sheet to the address below.
- You will be helping our water quality and educating your friends and neighbors on how easy it is to do the same!

To pick up a lawn sign, contact us:

Clean Water Guardians
Auburn University Marine Extension
and Research Center
4170 Commanders Drive
Mobile, AL 36615
Phone (251) 438-5690

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

| Select at least five: | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Compost lawn clippings and appropriate household wastes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recycle. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Properly dispose of kitchen grease. Don't pour it down the sink. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pump your septic tank every 3-5 years. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Flush pet wastes or dispose of in garbage. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wash your car on the lawn rather than the driveway. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Divert stormwater runoff from erosion-prone areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Construct terraces on sloping ground. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use porous materials for walkways and patios. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Properly dispose of excess fertilizer, paint, pesticides, motor oil, antifreeze, and other chemicals. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces to vegetated areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Minimize use of insecticides, herbicides, and other pesticides and follow application directions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Minimize use of fertilizer or use slow-release fertilizers and follow application directions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use native vegetation or natural areas in your landscape. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep litter, yard clippings, household chemicals, and other wastes out of ditches and storm drains. |