

# PROTECT Florida's Water



## WE ALL CAN HELP!!

- Don't overuse fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. **REMEMBER**, what you put on your lawn may eventually find its way into our waters.
- Don't improperly dispose of automotive fluids (motor oil, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids). Don't let them drain into your driveway or lawn, and make sure they are contained and disposed of properly.
- Don't dump yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) into ditches, canals or storm drains.
- Don't drain swimming pools onto streets, ditches or lawns.
- Don't wash your vehicle(s) on the driveway. Wash cars on the lawn or take to a commercial car wash.
- Clean up pet waste – bury it or flush down toilets.

The amount of pollution that you stop may seem small, but together it all adds up to cleaner water for everyone to enjoy!

### WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Stormwater is not clean water; stormwater runoff carries pollutants that seriously harm our waters! It is the rain that flows off streets, rooftops and lawns that carries salt, sand, gasoline, pet wastes, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, oil, litter and many other pollutants into storm drains.

### WHERE DOES THIS GO?

A common misconception is that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant – it does not! Stormwater usually receives no treatment and water that runs off lawns, streets and parking lots flow directly into our waterways, streams, rivers, bays and eventually the Gulf of Mexico.

As the stormwater flows across pavements, lawns and fields, it picks up pollution and carries it directly into the City's storm drains (sewers).



People deliberately dumping or discharging debris or hazardous materials into our drains are breaking the law, and sometimes they know it but do it anyway. If you do not feel comfortable confronting them about it, report it to the City of Gulfport Code Enforcement at 893-1061 or the Police Department at 893-1030.

Also, the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management can be contacted at (727) 464-4425 or their automated stormwater watchline at (727) 464-5060.