

Water Use Requirements

Water supply and water conservation are issues of critical concern for Florida. St. Johns County has irrigation restrictions to protect our water supply and they are:

Odd numbered addresses may water **Wednesday** and **Saturday** during Daylight Savings Time (summer) and **Saturday** during Eastern Standard Time (winter).

Even numbered addresses may water **Thursday** and **Sunday** during Daylight Savings Time (summer) and **Sunday** during Eastern Standard Time (winter).

- Water only when needed and not between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Water for no more than 1 hour.
- Restrictions include watering from private wells.
- Automatic irrigation systems must have a shut-off device for times when there is sufficient moisture.

Key Exceptions:

- New plants may be watered at any time for first 30 days and every other day for next 30 days.
- Watering-in of chemicals is allowed within 24 hours of application.
- Irrigation systems may be operated for maintenance and repair anytime, not to exceed 20 minutes per zone.

Contact Information

For General Information about these topics, please visit the St. Johns County Environmental Division webpage at:

www.sjcfl.us/environmental

To report complaints or possible illegal dumping in storm drains:

(904) 209-0726

For storm drain marking events or educational programs:

(904) 471-1063

For Hazardous Waste Collection Sites in St. Johns County:

(904) 827-6980

For more information on the Stormwater Program:

(904) 209-0626



Where Does All The Water Go?



Water from rain or watering your yard runs across the land and collects pollutants on its way to the nearest storm drain or surface water. This water is collectively called runoff water. Pollutants can include fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings and chemicals. Eventually, this runoff water including the pollutants ends up in our creeks, rivers, lakes and estuaries which reduce the quality of the water affecting all things living in that water body and impacting our fishing and recreation activities and our quality of life.

FERTILIZER

Nitrogen and phosphate found in fertilizer are called “nutrients”. Nutrients can negatively impact surface and ground water quality. It is far easier and much less expensive to reduce the amount of nutrients that enter our waters than it is to remove the nutrients once they are in the water. St. Johns County has an Ordinance regulating the use of fertilizers and providing management guidelines for fertilizers application including:

- Do not apply if there is a flood, tropical storm or a hurricane watch or warning issued by the National Weather Service for St. Johns County, or if heavy rain is likely.
- Do not apply within 10 feet of any surface water body, or 3 feet if a deflector shield or drop spreader is used.
- All commercial and institutional applicator shall complete the Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries training.
- Fertilizer application guidelines allow from 1 to 5 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year depending on the type of grass. See Ordinance 2010-19. For more information please visit:

<http://www.sjcfi.us/ProtectOurWater/index.aspx>

WHAT NOT TO PUT DOWN STORM DRAINS

- Grass clipping, leaves, or dirt/sand: instead place in compost heap or dispose in your weekly pick-up.
- Fertilizer: when applying fertilizer, sweep up any excess from driveway, sidewalk or road and place back on the lawn.
- Pet waste: bury or dispose of pet waste in an appropriate trash container.
- Motor oils, paints, and household chemicals: these items require proper disposal at a hazardous waste collection facility.
- Any trash or debris: dispose of waste in the appropriate trash container.



To organize a storm drain marking event, call the Watershed Protection Program: (904) 471-1063.

FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Florida Friendly Landscaping is the concept of using drought tolerant plants to produce landscapes that saves water. You will find it also saves your time and energy on maintenance of the plants and money by a lower water bill. The principles include:

- Plant the right plant in the right place
- Water only when needed
- Fertilize only when needed
- Mulch to decrease evaporation
- Manage yard pests responsibly
- Recycle yard waste

Florida’s water resources are precious and nutrient pollution threatens our waterways. Florida Friendly landscaping practices go a long way toward maintaining the quality of life we’ve come to enjoy in St. Johns County. For more information please visit:

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

