

Sources of Illicit Discharge

- Sanitary wastewater
- Effluent from septic tanks
- Car wash wastewaters
- Improper oil disposal
- Radiator flushing disposal
- Laundry wastewaters
- Spills from roadway accidents.
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxics.
- Grass clippings, soil, and yard debris.
- Common litter like plastic bottles, cans, wrappers, and cigarette butts.



City of Inverness
NPDES Stormwater Program
212 West Main Street
Inverness, FL 34450

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING INVERNESS'S ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND
CONNECTION ORDINANCE THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS.

Stormwater Pollution
Prevention Best
Management Practices

Landscaping and Lawn
Maintenance Industry



Common Stormwater Pollutants from the Landscape & Lawn Maintenance Industries

Routine activities like fertilizing the grass, applying pesticides, overwatering, and blowing lawn clippings into the street are a major source of stormwater pollution. Every time it rains, excess rainwater carries these contaminants into the stormwater sewer system, which leads directly to our waters.

Lawn clippings blown onto paved surfaces create a huge problem. Besides clogging storm drains which could lead to localized flooding, the clippings carry chemicals that contaminate the water. As the organic waste starts to decompose, it absorbs dissolved oxygen in the water, which kills aquatic life.

You can do your part to help restore these waters by implementing Best Management Practices to prevent stormwater pollution.

Best management Practices

1. **Dispose of yard debris properly** by keeping lawn clippings, leaves and debris out of street gutters. It is illegal to blow clippings onto paved areas, including streets and parking lots. Practice grasscycling by blowing grass clippings back onto the lawn where they will quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil.
2. **Apply pesticides** according to the label and only when needed.



3. **Mow grass to proper height** and frequency to maintain turf health and minimize fertilizer and pesticide use.
4. **Aerate lawns** to improve water and nutrient uptake, reducing runoff and compaction.
5. **Use organic mulch** to reduce water loss through evaporation, prevent erosion, suppress weeds and improve the soil for plant growth.
6. **Choose native and/or Florida friendly plants** that are drought tolerant and pest resistant when developing your landscape. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides. Furthermore, exotic plants can potentially invade local waterways.
7. **Plant non-turf areas** where possible because lawns require more water and maintenance than wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

8. **Use integrated Pest Management** techniques to prevent pest damage with the least risk of environmental damage.

9. **Use low-volume watering** approaches where possible such as drip-type or micro-irrigation systems. Water plants only when needed to enhance plant root growth and avoid runoff problems. Much of the water that is applied to lawns is not absorbed. If it is applied too quickly, it is lost to runoff. Make sure irrigation timers are set to comply with Inverness's watering restrictions.

10. **Shut off and adjust** an irrigation system when water falls or runs onto impervious surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, or driveways. Maintain the irrigation system for optimal performance.

How to Learn More

You are encouraged to go to the City of Inverness website:

<http://www.inverness-fl.gov/>

And go to the City Services / Stormwater Management to learn more about our water resources and how we can protect them.

Contact Us

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