



**PET WASTE** contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can

threaten human health and cause shellfish bed closures, algae blooms and recreational water closures.

- Clean up after your pets using a scooper or plastic bag. Seal the bag before placing it in the trash.
- Install a pet waste digester on your property.
- Use a covered litter box outside for cats.
- Do not flush pet waste down the toilet.



**FERTILIZERS** contain nitrogen and phosphorus - primary nutrients of algae growth. As algae decays it uses up the oxygen in the water that fish and wildlife need to survive.

- Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner.
- Get a soil test kit to determine lawn nutrient needs and proper application rates. Save time and money on unnecessary fertilizer. FREE soil test kits are available at Brunswick County Cooperative Extension (910) 253-2610).
- Never fertilize before it rains.
- Use a drop spreader instead of broadcast spreaders for more precise application.
- Keep fertilizer off of sidewalks, streets, and driveways.



**PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES** are

poisonous and pose a health threat to humans, animals, plants, and beneficial insects.

- Weed by hand and use natural predators, such as ladybugs, to control pests.
- Use native plants that are pest and disease resistant.
- Use pesticides as a last resort, read the label, use sparingly, and spot treat only.
- Never apply pesticides before it rains.



**YARD WASTE** such as

leaves and grass clippings that are blown into streets, storm drains, or ditches can cause algae blooms, oxygen depletion, and fish kills in waterways. Clogged storm drains and ditches can also cause property flooding.

- Do not blow or sweep yard waste into the street, storm drain, ditch, or waterway.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner.
- Compost leaves and grass clippings and use as a mulch.
- Bag or containerize waste for yard waste collection.



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Brochure





**OVER-WATERING** can cause lawn disease and transport fertilizers, pesticides, and yard waste into waterways.

- *Soil should be nearly dry before watering.*
- *Water slowly so that the water doesn't runoff or compact the soil.*
- *Use a can to measure the amount of water you're putting on the lawn; ½-1" is plenty of water for most lawns.*
- *Water the lawn, not the sidewalk, street, or driveway.*
- *Water in the early morning to discourage disease and reduce evaporation.*
- *Use drought and disease-tolerant native plants to reduce watering needs.*



**SEDIMENT** impacts aquatic life, habitat and water quality and can lead to flooding.

- *Re-seed bare lawn or soil areas.*
- *Mulch exposed soil in gardens and flower beds.*
- *Plant groundcover, shrubs and trees to hold soil in place, reduce erosion, and filter pollutants from runoff.*
- *Collect dirt and sediment off of driveways, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces.*
- *Follow construction laws and practices.*



**CARWASHING** soaps and detergents destroy the external mucus layers of fish

that protect them from bacteria and parasites. Many detergents contain phosphates which promote algae and aquatic weed growth.

- *Wash your car on the grass to allow the dirt and soap to be naturally filtered by the soil.*
- *Use phosphate-free soaps and detergents.*
- *Use a commercial carwash, the water is recycled or sent to a treatment plant.*



**AUTO FLUIDS** are often poured down storm drains or leaked onto pavement.

- *Properly dispose of fluids. Recycle oil, antifreeze, and batteries at an auto parts store.*
- *Clean up vehicle leaks and spills immediately with kitty litter or sawdust.*



**LITTER** is unsightly and clogs storm drains, ditches, and pipes causing flooding. Litter may entangle wildlife or may be

mistaken for food. Cigarette butts contain plastic that takes many years to break down in the environment.

- *Always put litter in and cigarette butts in the trash.*
- *Reduce, reuse, and recycle whenever possible.*



**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** such as paint, cleaners, and other

household chemicals often contain toxins, heavy metals, and nutrients. When these pollutants reach the waterways, they impact water quality, wildlife, and human health.

- *Properly dispose of all HHW, collection days will be held annually.*
- *Read labels carefully and use products correctly.*
- *Use non-toxic product alternatives.*
- *Do not pour HHW down storm drains or household drains.*



**COOKING OIL & GREASE**

is poured down household drains builds up on the sanitary sewer pipes and can cause wastewater to overflow directly into the environment or back into homes.

- *Put oil and grease in a container, seal it, and place it in the trash*
- *Do not pour oil or grease down household drains.*



**SEPTIC SYSTEMS** that are poorly maintained or leaking can release nutrients and bacteria into the environment.

This can cause shellfish bed closures, algal blooms, groundwater contamination and health concerns.