

Our Lawn and Gardens

- ◆ Use garden and lawn Chemicals in accordance with the City's Fertilizer Ordinance Chapter 100.
- ◆ Only use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers when organic methods fail. The University of Florida's IFAS website is an excellent source of information for responsible lawn and garden maintenance
- ◆ Never apply any fertilizers or chemicals when rain is forecast. Why? Excessive fertilizers and chemicals wash off the property and into surface and ground waters

Keep Irrigation Water on the Lawn and Garden (Not on Paved Surfaces)

Divert rain to unpaved areas or swales, and wash vehicles where water will drain to vegetated areas.

Why? This allows runoff to infiltrate and into the soil and not wash off into nearby waterbodies after picking up pollutants. If your lawn is irrigated by reuse water, research shows that fertilizer is overkill!



Compost Leaves, Grass and Shrub Clippings Use these materials as mulch to supplement fertilizers. Do NOT rake these materials into roadways or swales. Why? These materials will decompose returning nutrients to the soil so that you can use less fertilizers. If placed in roads or swales, yard debris will block drainage flows and end up in your nearest waterbodies.

Automotive

- ◆ **Don't drain used motor oil into storm drains.** Take used motor oil and anti-freeze to service stations to recycle them. Why? These products are toxic and add pollutants to surface waters if placed or washed into storm drains.
- ◆ **Service your car regularly.** Have your car inspected and maintained regular-



ly. Why? To prevent leakage of motor oil, antifreeze and other fluids that can end up in the nearest waterbody. Well maintained vehicles reduce air emissions that can also contaminate surface waters.

WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE
EVERY DAY TO OUR LAGOON AND OUR CITY!



How Muck Happens

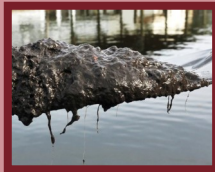


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Palm Bay, Florida 32907

Legacy of the Muck

Up and Down the Indian River Lagoon and Banana River...

muck has been identified as a constant source of algae-bloom-causing nutrients. Several projects have been funded by various regulatory agencies over the past few years to dredge this tar-like substance from the lagoon bottom. In addition, the St. John's River Water Management District has implemented the C-1 Canal Re-diversion project that will divert as much as 50 % of the runoff from the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District to the west to the Sawgrass Water Management area where it can be treated then ultimately to the St. John's River.



The City of Palm Bay has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on Baffle Boxes and other best management practices to help trap the sediments, hydrocarbons, nutrients, and other pollutants before they are discharged to the Lagoon. These remediation efforts will only be as successful as the efforts that each citizen makes to control his/her contribution to the ingredients of muck.

So, what do we do every day that causes algae blooms and muck?

- ◆ Apply fertilizers incorrectly and during the rainy season



- ◆ Mow lawns and trim vegetation that ends up decomposing in our waterways
- ◆ We don't maintain our septic systems or don't properly abandon our septic systems and connect to City-provided sanitary sewer lines.
- ◆ Septic systems are also a source of pathogens that end up in muck.
- ◆ We don't pick up pet waste, a huge source of nutrients and pathogens.
- ◆ Apply pesticides that can end up in our waterways killing aquatic organisms and contaminating sediments
- ◆ We litter, which usually ends up in our waterways after heavy rainfall providing oxygen-demanding organic material that kill aquatic organisms, clogs fish gills.
- ◆ Dispose of oils and grease in stormwater drains or allowing leaks on paved surfaces which end up in the storm sewer system

What Can We Do?

In our Homes

Shop Wisely Buy products labeled Biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorus or water soluble.

Why? Because they readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground waters.

Store Products Safely Keep toxic products in original containers, closed and clearly marked in safe storage places.

Why? To prevent spillage, which could reach ground or surface waters, and to prevent accidents with children or pets.

Connect to the City's Sanitary Sewer System Where available. It's the Law Especially if you live in a hot zone within 150 ft of a waterway/canal. Properly abandoning septic systems and connecting to the City's sanitary sewer system where available is the best way to assist in reducing nutrient loads to our lagoon. In areas where connecting is not possible, citizens should...



Properly Maintain Septic Systems Inspect systems regularly and have them pumped out as needed. Avoid caustic cleaners, chemicals, or solvents and fats, oils and greases.

Why? They destroy waste-reducing bacteria or clog absorption fields which could cause runoff of inadequately treated wastes during rain storms to reach our ground or surface waters