

Stormwater Smart



Learn how to support stormwater management.
Reduce your environmental impact!



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What is Stormwater Pollution?

By Tracy Kelley

Stormwater is defined as water that occurs after a rainfall event and flows over hardened or impervious surfaces. In developed areas, these surfaces prevent the water from naturally absorbing into the ground. As water travels into the stormwater drainage system, it can collect oil, chemicals, bacteria, sediment, pet waste, trash, and other pollutants.

Once the water enters the stormwater drainage system, these pollutants or illicit discharges can contaminate Florida's natural resources such as ponds, lakes, wetlands, oceans, and our drinking water!

Where It Flows, Everything Goes...

Follow these simple pollution solutions:

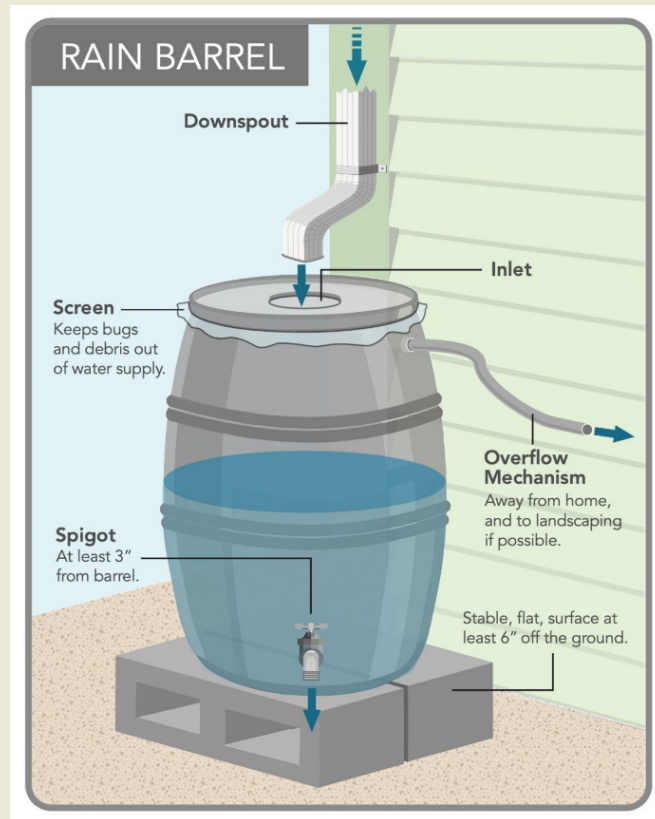
DON'T MOW TOO LOW. Only remove 1/3 of the grass blade height and leave clippings on the lawn to allow nutrients to return to the soil – they act as a natural fertilizer.

CAREFUL WITH CHEMICALS. Read labels when applying pesticides and fertilizers, use them sparingly, and avoid applying them to pavement. When there is rain in the forecast, any chemicals you apply can wash downstream.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN. Don't rake, sweep, or hose debris down the storm drains. Leaves, yard clippings, and trash can clog storm pipes, causing floods and polluted waterways.

CURB YOUR WATER WASTE. Direct sprinklers toward the lawn and away from pavement to save water and keep chemicals and debris out of storm drains.

Ways to Support Stormwater



Consider purchasing a rain barrel. Rain barrels are a great way to capture water from stormwater runoff to be used later on lawns, gardens, or indoor plants. It also is a great way to reduce the amount of water flow from your property. It's a way to conserve water and it's free water for use in your landscape!

Note: Remember as rainwater flows over a roof surface, it can pick up pollutants such as bacteria from birds and other animals, and chemicals from roof materials – factors to consider when thinking about using rain barrel water on edible plantings.

**Rain barrels are available through online retailers and local home and garden supply stores.*

