

Calling All Citizens, Pasco County Needs Your Help - Yes, You!

As citizens we have the responsibility to be good stewards of this great County that we call home. We need to take a more active role in preserving our environment by preventing and reducing water pollution. By taking a more active role, we all benefit. Our environment will improve in many ways. Pasco County will become a better place to live, and our tax dollars will be spent more efficiently. In addition you could actually save some money over time.

Pollution - Cause & Effect

It all starts with an understanding of pollution. Pollution can be naturally occurring or man-made. Pollutants are usually found on the ground and on structures. These pollutants can cause problems that range from unsightliness, flooding, harm to the environment, and health issues. Examples of pollutants include litter, plastics, grass clippings, leaves, oils, chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, soil (sediment), mulch and debris. Another cause of pollution is illicit discharges. An illicit discharge is the illegal dumping of pollutants into storm drains, swales, stormwater facilities, roads, wetlands or waterbodies. If caught, violators are subject to a \$500 fine per day, per offense plus cleanup costs. If you see or are aware of an illicit discharge report it to the County.

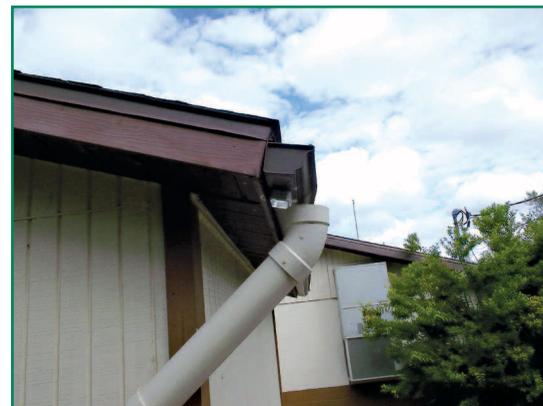
Pollution - Moves & Settles

Pollution moves by wind, water and gravity. It collects in areas that have a lower velocity where it settles out. Pollution can be transported in stormwater runoff. Basically rainwater is pure until it hits the ground. Once rainwater hits the ground it then becomes stormwater runoff. As stormwater flows across the land and roads, it picks up pollutants and deposits it elsewhere.

These deposits are typically found in roadside swales, catch basins, end walls, flow paths, ponds, wetlands and other water courses. Logically if we can prevent pollution at its source, we can reduce pollution where it deposits.



Gutter with Splash Guard - Good



Gutter with Detached Downspout - Bad

Additional Resources

Southwest Florida Water Management District
(www.swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
(www.dep.state.fl.us)

Pasco County Cooperative Extension Office
(<http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

For More Information

Call Pasco County Customer Service at:

727-847-2411 (New Port Richey)
352-523-2411 (Dade City)
813-996-2411 (Land O' Lakes)
800-368-2411 (Toll-Free)

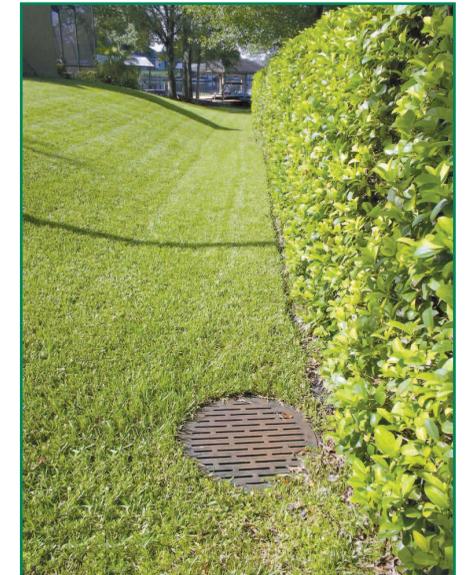
OR

File a customer service request on www.pascocountyfl.net



Citizen's Guide To Preserving Our Waterways

Help Pasco County Protect Our Waterways by Performing Preventive Maintenance



Swale & Drain Maintenance

Pasco County Stormwater Management Division

4454 Grand Boulevard
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Phone: 727-834-3611 • Fax: 727-834-3620
www.pascocountyfl.net/stormwater



Preventive Maintenance You Can Do - Good Citizens Take Charge, Reduce Pollution By Being Proactive

What Can I Do?

The most important thing is to be aware of what causes pollution, then do the right thing by preventing and reducing pollution. This may mean changing our thinking, behaviors and/or priorities. The following are some examples.

- Periodically inspect your property and look for erosion and maintenance problems such as:
 - Gutters, downspouts, roof lines and where the rainwater hits the ground.
 - Along the edge of the sidewalks or driveways.
 - Exposed plant roots.



Example of Erosion

- Bare areas of the property.
- Along banks of the property.
- Along the perimeters of the property.
- Driveway culverts (pipes).
- Along swales or flow paths of the property.
- Low areas of the property.
- For those that have any stormwater facilities, inspect stormwater structures, conveyance facilities and ponds.

- Properly dispose of trash, debris and yard waste.
- Recycle, if possible.
- Do timely maintenance. Be proactive.
 - Make sure downspouts and gutters are in a state of good repair and are cleaned out.
 - Place a splash block (or pipe extension) on the downspouts and fill any holes that exist.
 - Reseed or resod bare areas. These areas may need an alternate ground cover.
 - Remove all obstructions from low areas and flow paths.
 - Clean out or restore any culverts that are located on your property such as under the driveway.



Pipe End Section with Debris

- Keep yard drains clear of trash, debris and sediment. If necessary, flush the lines.
- Remove sediment that collects.
- Inspect ponds and control structures such as weirs, grates, inlets and outfalls.
- Maintain your rain barrel.

- If there are chronic problems with erosion or keeping an area vegetated, try alternative measures. If necessary, contact a professional or refer to the “Additional Resources” section of this brochure.
- Some common pitfalls to avoid:
 - Not knowing how or when to apply chemicals like herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. Overusing chemicals.
 - Washing cars in the street or driveway instead of the yard.
 - Either filling or allowing low areas on the property to fill up over time.
 - Not knowing or having a better understanding of your property. For example:
 - Location of the drainage flow path on the property such as swales.
 - Scalping when mowing.
 - Outfalls of any roof drains.
 - Location of underground items like septic fields or tanks.
 - Planting plants in proper locations.
 - Using additional fertilizer when irrigating with reclaimed water which is already nutrient rich.
 - Knowing the location of easements.
 - Removing all vegetation, and paving or graveling the entire property.

Some Common Misconceptions Are:

- My property lot is small. It’s only a little erosion.

FACT: Every bit adds up. It costs the County money for maintaining our drainage system. This will also cost the tax payer as well.

- I need (or they want me) to spend a lot of money.

FACT: Although a lot of money could be spent, a lot of things can be done not only inexpensively, but free. It will involve some time and maybe changing the way you did things before. However, keep in mind that sometimes in order to save time and money, a little time and money needs to be spent.

- One plant is as good as another.

FACT: Different plants have different requirements for sun, water and soil. Some plants are invasive and are not good for the ecosystem and should not be planted. Choose plants wisely like native Florida-Friendly species.

What Else Can I Do?

- If you see trash, pick it up and dispose of it properly.
- Volunteer for programs such as Pasco County’s Adopt-A-Road Program.
- Report problems or illicit discharges to your local jurisdiction.
or
Call Pasco County Customer Service at 1-800-368-2411.

**Help Pasco County
Protect Our Waterways!**