

Landscaping to Improve Water Quality

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Lawn chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers pollute our streams and lakes. Excess nutrients from lawn fertilizers and yard waste can cause algal blooms, fish kills, and increases cost for water treatment to remove the musty odors and tastes left behind. Yard wastes, such as leaves, grass clippings, sticks and limbs, can block underground drainage pipes and culverts, cause flooding and add more nutrients to the water.



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Watch the weather. Apply fertilizers and pesticides when the forecast does **NOT** call for rain, otherwise you are literally flushing your money away!
- Reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides by mulching, applying compost and/or planting native plants.
- Blow or sweep excess materials back into the lawn.
- Never sweep or blow anything into the storm drain!

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 Protecting water quality through outreach, education & public participation since 2004.



Stormwater SMART Member Governments:
Davidson County, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Archdale, Asheboro, Burlington, Elon, Gibsonville, Graham, Green Level, Haw River, Lexington, Mebane, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Randleman, Reidsville, Thomasville & Trinity.

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PROPER DISPOSAL METHODS

Grass clippings, leaves, sticks and limbs should be composted, taken to a landfill, or to an approved disposal site. Yard waste removed by a commercial landscaper cannot be placed at the curb for pickup. It is illegal to dump yard waste or landscaping products into storm drains, ditches and streams. You could face a hefty fine if you do so.

Never throw leftover pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in the trash or pour it down the storm drain or sink. Because they are made of toxic chemicals, they are considered hazardous waste, which means they have to be disposed of properly. Check with your local government to find the nearest hazardous waste facility.



SAVE MONEY & REDUCE POLLUTION

- Test the soil before applying fertilizer. Your soil may not require fertilization, especially in the Piedmont.
- Aerate the soil to prevent compaction and increase infiltration (the ability for soil to absorb rainwater).
- Spot spray weeds with herbicide rather than treating the whole yard.
- Mulch flower beds to stop weeds and reduce water evaporation.



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