



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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## **Make your residence the Solution to Stormwater Pollution.**

### **1. Lawn Care**

- Use pesticides and fertilizers **sparingly**. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into Biscayne Bay and surrounding waterways.
- Select **native** plants and grasses that are drought- and pest- resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- **Sweep up** yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible. **The City offers residential Green Waste Recycling at 2800 Meridian Avenue.**
- Do not over water your lawn. Water during the **coolest** times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard into local waterways.
- **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

### **2. Car Care**

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into Biscayne Bay.
- Check you car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

### **3. Pet Care**

- When walking your pet, remember to **pick up** the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm drain and eventually into Biscayne Bay and other local waterways.

#### 4. **Swimming Pool and Spa**

- **Drain** your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels in the pool water.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the **sanitary sewer system**.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to **prevent** leaks and spills, preferably in covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

#### 5. **Home Repair and Improvement**

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and **protect** them from debris and other materials.
- **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the **smallest amounts possible**, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills **immediately**, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Residents can take leftover paints and other house hold chemicals to Miami-Dade County Home Chemical Collection Centers located in West Dade at **8831 N.W. 58th Street**, and in South Dade at **23707 SW 97th Avenue Gate-B**. Normal hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Purchase and use **nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable** products whenever possible.
- **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program such as the Miami-Dade County Home Chemical Collection Center or donate unused paint to local organizations. More information can be found at: <http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm/>
- **Reduce** the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Landscape using native plants to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.