



Storm Drain Marking in Your Area

In the next couple of months, you might see signs like the one shown below near the storm drains in your neighborhood. These signs are to remind you that what is placed in or washes down storm drains can end up in our waterways. Volusia County Environmental Management, the City of Orange City, and the St. Johns River Water Management District's (District) Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Program are collaborating to educate homeowners and residents on what can be done to improve the quality of water going down storm drains and into our waterways.

As rain falls and flows across the land, it becomes storm water runoff. Storm water runoff is a major source of pollution that affects our waterways. It is commonly thought that storm water is treated at sewage treatment facilities — it is not. The majority of water flowing down storm drains ends up in our rivers, lakes and coastal waters after little or no treatment.

You can do many things to help reduce the amount of runoff or improve water quality.

Grass clippings or leaves swept into roads are often washed down storm drains. When organic material reaches our waterways, its decomposition reduces oxygen levels in the water. This causes problems for aquatic organisms that depend on dissolved oxygen to survive, such as fish and shellfish.

Direct the rainfall from down spouts onto flowerbeds or grassed areas, rather than paved onto surfaces. This reduces the amount of runoff and helps irrigate the yard.

If using fertilizers or pesticides, follow directions and apply no more than necessary. Pesticides and fertilizer may be washed off lawns and carried by runoff to our waterways. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to add nutrients to your lawn. You can reduce your use of fertilizers by matching the right plant with the right location. Proper matching will reduce water, fertilizer and pesticide use. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service for more information on right plant, right place or use the District's Waterwise Florida Landscapes book found at: <http://www.sjrwmd.com/waterwiselandscapes/plantefficientuse.html>. In addition, this guide can be ordered online.

Place all litter in garbage cans. If your property is next to a storm drain, remove all debris regularly and dispose of it properly. Trash washed down storm drains can clog

the drain, causing flooding. When washed into our waterways, animals can become entangled in the litter. However, ingestion is more common and causes damage to digestive tracts, resulting in starvation, malnutrition, or reduction of the animal's ability to regulate its buoyancy. Marine debris can become entangled in boat propellers, causing property damage or endangering passengers.

Don't pour or place anything in a storm drain. Chemicals, paints, oil, or solvents are often poured down storm drains. Dispose of them properly at the Tomoka Landfill's [household hazardous waste](#) facility for FREE. The Tomoka Landfill is located at 1990 Tomoka Farms Road, Daytona Beach. Their phone number is (386) 947-2952. Their hours of operation are:

Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For a list of drop off locations throughout the County visit:

<http://volusia.org/recycle/dispose.htm#house>

For more information about how you can be a part of the solution, contact Volusia County Environmental Management or the WAV Program at:

- Will Hobson, Volusia County WAV coordinator, (386) 736-5927, Ext. 5823, or e-mail WAVVolusia@sjrwmd.com



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