

Yard Care

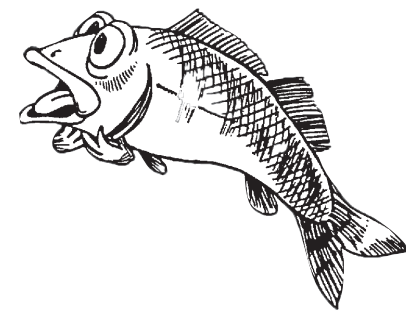
Tips to Protect Wilmington's Waterways

Improper landscaping practices can pollute waterways, clog storm drains and ditches, and result in fines.

Stormwater runoff carries pollution straight to our waterways, untreated!

Fertilizers & Pesticides contain nutrients that can cause algae to grow in waterways. Decaying algae uses up oxygen and creates dead zones, harming fish and aquatic life.

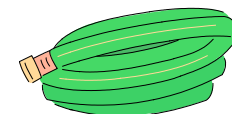
- Go Natural! Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer, weed by hand, use natural predators (ie ladybugs) to control pests, etc.
- Get a soil test to learn the exact nutrients your lawn needs
- Apply the correct amount of fertilizer or pesticides and never apply before rain
- Keep off hard surfaces like sidewalks, streets and driveways



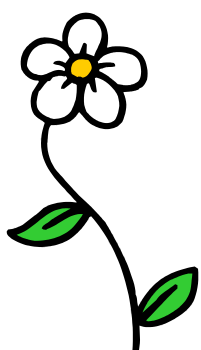
Yard Waste (leaves, pinestraw, grass clippings) can clog storm drains and ditches causing flooding and pollute local waterways with excess nutrients.

- Keep yard waste out of storm drains, ditches, streets and waterways (\$250 fine)
- Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner or compost yard waste for use in the landscape
- Contain yard waste for collection service or take to yard waste disposal facility

Erosion & Irrigation practices can wash soil away, harming aquatic habitat.



- Prevent erosion by adding vegetation or mulch to exposed soil. Sweep up soil, don't wash it away
- Water the landscape, not the street or sidewalk. Resist over-watering which causes lawn disease
- Save water! Collect free rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns to irrigate your landscape



Native Plants are nature's solution to stormwater pollution!

- Native plants are adapted to the area's weather and soil conditions and are naturally resistant to pests, diseases and drought
- Incorporate native plants into rain gardens, habitat gardens, backyard wetlands and buffers to naturally filter polluted runoff before it reaches waterways