

Stormwater Pollution

The following suggestions are ways that residents can assist in restoring the Indian River Lagoon:

- ❑ Wash your vehicles at a car wash, or on grass or gravel. Many detergents contain phosphorous and the dirt from your car most likely contains heavy metal particulates, these are both pollutants. Environmentally safe detergents can also be purchased.
- ❑ Fertilizers and herbicides should be used sparingly. Both contain nitrogen and phosphorous, which promote the growth of algae. Algae rot and consume oxygen, causing fish kills.
- ❑ Chronic exposure to some of the chemicals found in pesticides can cause debilitating deformities in aquatic wildlife, and should be used sparingly.
- ❑ Picking up after your pets is very important. Not only when walking, but in your yard as well. Fecal matter is very high in nutrients and also contains bacteria, such as E. coli, which is harmful to people and wildlife. When picking up after your pet, please place the waste material in trash receptacles.
- ❑ Grass clippings and vegetative waste contribute to the nutrient and muck levels in the canals and Lagoon, and should be blown back into your yard or containerized for proper disposal.
- ❑ Do not pile vegetative waste on or near storm drain inlets. Not only will it contribute to the nutrient and muck levels, it can also cause blockages to the drainage system.
- ❑ Do not over water. If you water your yard until the water is flowing out of your yard and into the gutter, that water most likely contains many of the pollutants we have talked about. These pollutants will end up in the stormwater system and ultimately the Lagoon.
- ❑ Aiming roof gutter drains into your yard, rather than onto the driveway, is another way of diverting water from the stormwater system and allowing it to percolate into the soil.

Most of these activities are part of your normal routines. By slightly altering the way you go about these daily tasks, you can positively impact the environment.