

RESPONSIBLE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Use plants that need less water, fertilizer, and pesticides
- Don't apply landscape chemicals before rain, and follow instructions carefully to prevent over-application
- Use fertilizers and weed killers as needed and sweep up any residue and place in trash
- Make sure grass clippings, leaves, and debris are disposed of properly
- Avoid over watering landscape to prevent excess runoff
- If using commercial landscapers, be sure that they follow these guidelines as well

DEFINITIONS

Best Management Practice (BMPs): Utilize a schedule of activities, list of prohibited activities, maintain operation procedures and management practices to prevent or reduce pollutants in the environment

Discharge: Any release, spilling, leaking, seeping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping of any substance or material

Illicit Discharge: Any direct or indirect discharge to the City's MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater or which is not authorized by the County.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): Conveyance owned or operated by a local government that discharges to waters of the U.S. or connects to other MS4s, that is designed solely for connecting or conveying stormwater.

Stormwater: Any surface flow, runoff and drainage consisting entirely of water from rainstorm events.

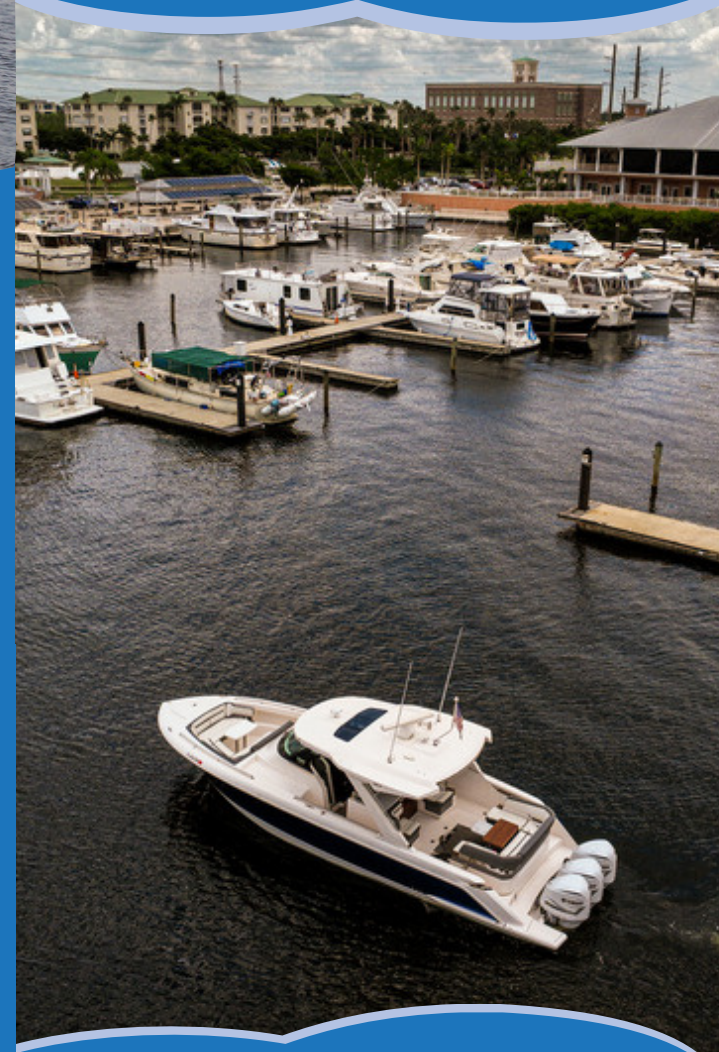


If you are a business owner and would like information on how to properly dispose of your business generated hazardous waste, please contact the City of Punta Gorda Stormwater Division at (941) 575-5050 or at pubworks@pgorda.us.

If you would like to review small quantity generator requirements, visit this informative site to find out more:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/pages/sqg.htm>.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention in the Workplace





STORMWATER RUNOFF AND WATER POLLUTION

When it rains, stormwater flows over surfaces such as rooftops, streets, driveways and parking lots. The runoff collects pollutants, such as oils, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners and other chemicals.

Even if your workplace is not near a stream, river, or lake, the runoff flows into a storm drain or ditch that empties into the closest body of water, taking pollutants along with it. Stormwater runoff is a leading source of water pollution.

Many businesses contribute to stormwater pollution. You can help by preventing chemical spills, using proper cleaning techniques, educating your employees, and maintaining landscapes responsibly. Good housekeeping practices are essential to help keep pollutants out of our lakes and streams.



SPILL PREVENTION

- Label and store containers properly
- Maintain proper storage and disposal facilities (overflow devices, secondary containment, etc.)
- Dispense materials in contained areas
- properly dispose of spent materials
- Inspect and monitor vehicles and heavy equipment for leaks
- inspect containers for signs of corrosion, replace as necessary
- If spills occur, contain and clean up, then properly dispose of materials

PROPER CLEANING TECHNIQUES

- Never wash spilled chemicals, trash, automobile fluids, or grease off parking lots, loading docks, into storm drains
- Regularly clean outside areas to prevent pollutant buildup
- Block storm drains before pressure-washing buildings or equipment and collect the water with a liquid vacuum device for proper disposal
- Verify that floor drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system, not the storm drain system
- Wash vehicles in a proper facility that disposes water to a sanitary sewer system



EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

- Be prepared for emergencies by developing a "spill response plan"
- Train employees on proper procedures to follow in event of an accidental spill or discharge
- Train employees about proper disposal of waste
- Display appropriate signage on hazardous material storage containers listing dangers associated with each substance
- Post emergency phone numbers near hazardous material storage areas and on employee bulletin boards
- If a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been created, ensure that all employees are familiar with it