

How does Pointless Personal Pollution impact our waters?



- Nutrients from fertilizers, septic tanks and animal waste can cause excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds.
- Heavy metals and pesticides from road runoff or from yards and farms can kill aquatic organisms and contaminate sediments.
- Sewage, garbage and litter reduce oxygen in the water to levels that can kill aquatic life.
- Sediments from soil erosion clog fish gills and shellfish filter systems, cutting off their oxygen supplies.



Reporting Illicit Discharges

Please report any wastewater or other polluting material that you see being discharged into a street, alley, stormdrain, lake or river. Violations that are reported while they are in progress can often be quickly corrected and may result in little or no pollution entering a lake. You may submit a report through Seminole County's Watershed Atlas at :

www.seminole.wateratlas.org

If you want to be part of the solution, and need additional information, you can contact any of the following organizations:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Nonpoint Source Management Section
2600 Blair Stone Road • Tallahassee FL 32399
(850) 245-7508

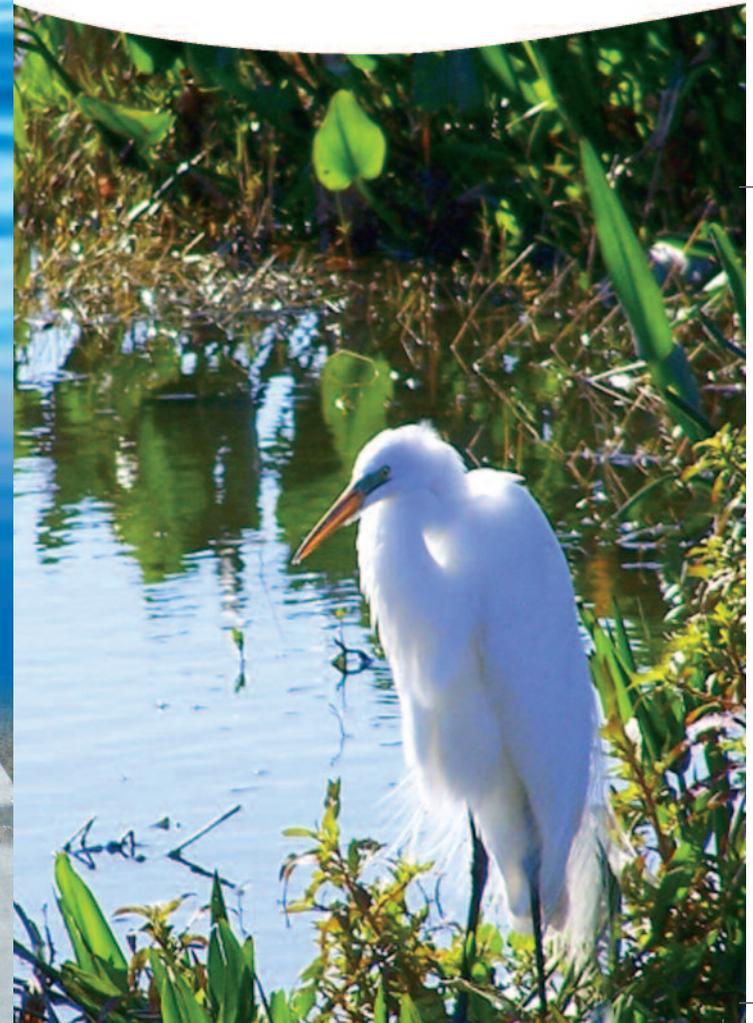
Seminole County Government
Environmental Services/Solid Waste Management
(407) 665-2262

Seminole County Government
Public Works Department/Roads-Stormwater
Water Quality Section
(407) 665-2461

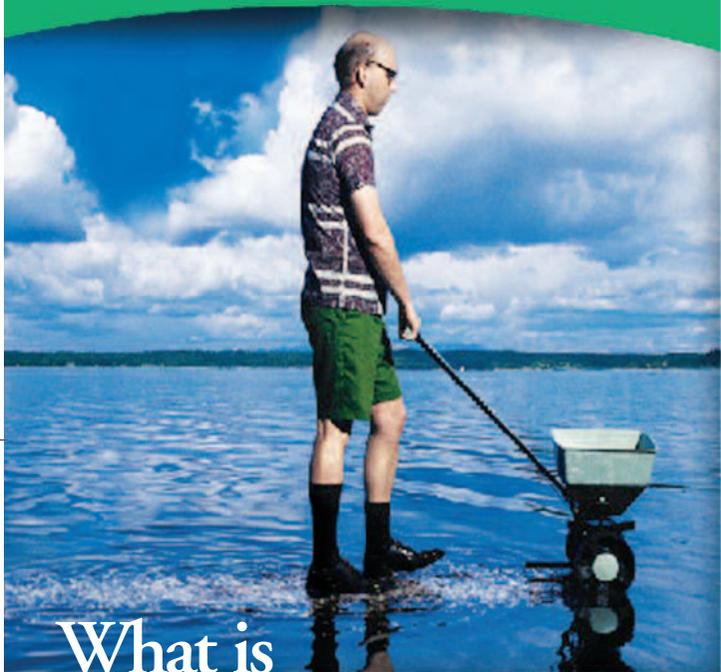
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
(407) 665-5575



“How You Can Protect
Central Florida
Waterways”



“Wherever you live, your daily activities could end up polluting Florida waters.”



What is

Pointless Personal Pollution?

Pointless Personal Pollution, also known as nonpoint source pollution, is difficult to identify and treat.

This is because many of our daily activities can cause this pollution, and it can travel by many different routes into the ground and surface waters.

Pollutants from our homes, businesses and farms are major contributors to the pollution of Florida’s surface and ground waters. This pollution is washed into the state’s waters by rain or irrigation water.

What can I do to reduce Pointless Personal Pollution?

SHOP WISELY:

Buy products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorus, or water soluble. These products decompose quickly and will not pollute surface or ground waters.

STORE PRODUCTS SAFELY:

Keep toxic products in original containers, closed and clearly marked, in safe storage places. This will prevent spillage that could reach ground or surface waters. It may also help prevent an accidental poisoning if you have children or pets.

PROPERLY MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

Inspect systems regularly and have the system pumped out as needed. Avoid caustic cleaners, chemicals, solvents, fats, oils and greases. These might destroy waste-reducing bacteria or clog absorption fields, causing runoff of inadequately treated waste during storms and compromising the ground or surface waters.

LAWN & GARDEN CARE:

Use garden and lawn chemicals wisely. Follow package directions carefully, and only use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers when other methods fail. Do not apply if rain is in the forecast. Excessive fertilizers and chemicals wash off the property and into surface and ground waters.

Keep irrigation water on the lawn and garden (not on paved surfaces).

Divert rain spouts to unpaved areas or swales, and wash vehicles where water will drain to vegetated areas. This allows runoff to soak into the soil and not wash off the property into nearby waterbodies after picking up pollutants.

Compost leaves, grass and shrub clippings should be used as mulch to supplement fertilizers. Do not rake these materials into roadways or swales. These materials decompose, returning nutrients to the soil so you use less fertilizer. Do not place yard debris in roads or swales. This will block drainage flows and end up in your nearest waterbodies.

AUTOMOTIVE CARE

Don’t drain used motor oil into stormdrains. Take used motor oil and antifreeze to service stations to recycle them. These products are toxic and add pollutants to surface waters if placed or washed into stormdrains.

Service your car regularly. Have your car inspected and maintained regularly. This will prevent leakage of motor oil, antifreeze and other fluids that can end up in the nearest waterbody. Well-maintained vehicles reduce air emissions that also can contaminate surface waters.



“Unlike many other types of pollution, WE cause this pollution, and WE can stop it.”

