

Protect the Waterfront

Living on the waterfront or near a water body has many benefits. But, there are also responsibilities that come along with being a waterfront homeowner. Everything we put on the land can run off into a water body when it rains. Pollutants such as litter, fertilizer, grass clippings, motor oil and pet waste wash directly into water bodies.





There's Still Time to Protect Your Waterfront

Waterfront homeowners can help protect water quality by following these tips:

- ✓ Designate a "maintenance-free zone" of at least 10 feet between your lawn or landscape and the water body. Don't mow, fertilize or apply pesticides to this buffer area.
- ✓ Plant a six-foot buffer zone of low-maintenance plants between your lawn and the shoreline to absorb nutrients and provide a wildlife habitat.
- ✓ Install appropriate aquatic plants to prevent soil erosion.
- ✓ Never prune mangroves or remove any vegetation without first seeking proper permits and guidelines. If you have mangroves, contact the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection or your local government's natural resources department for information on proper management.
- ✓ Remove invasive aquatic plants such as water lettuce, hydrilla and water hyacinth by cutting, pulling or raking.
- ✓ Use fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides sparingly or not at all.
- ✓ Use mulch around plants to retain moisture.
- ✓ Wash your car at a commercial car wash that uses recycled water, or wash it on the lawn using natural cleaning products.
- ✓ Pick up litter, fertilizer, grass clippings, motor oil and pet waste before these materials enter storm drains and flow into water bodies.

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

This information will be made available in accessible formats upon request.
Please contact the Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476
(FL only), ext. 4757; TDD only at 1-800-231-6103 (FL only).

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