

ALACHUA COUNTY WATER QUALITY CODE

Chapter 77 (Ordinance 02-27) prohibits non-storm water discharges into storm water management systems, which includes most roads.

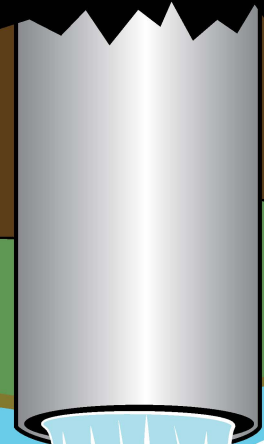


The Storm Drain System

The storm drain system was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. In most areas, anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks without any treatment.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

Potential sources of water pollution include landscaping activities, pressure washing of buildings and sidewalks, vehicle washing, and leaky cars and dumpsters.



Learn more at
AlachuaCountyWater.org



Alachua County Environmental Protection Department:
352-264-6800

Alachua County Hazardous Waste Collection Center:
352-334-0440

Gainesville.
Citizen centered
People empowered



BMP

CUSTODIAL STAFF

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Cleaning



Pressure Washing Buildings & Sidewalks



Landscape Activities



Dumpsters



Leaky Cars



Kitchen Grease



Painting Activities

BMP

CUSTODIAL STAFF

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Pressure Washing

- Minimize the amount of water used.
- Do not use cleaning products that contain hazardous materials such as bleach.
- Block storm drains with a barrier or seal storm drains with plugs or rubber mats.
- Wastewater with pollutants (including cleaning compounds) must be collected, not left to evaporate.

Cleaning

- Use the least toxic chemicals as possible for the job. Check out ecocycle.org or epa.gov for suggestions.
- Cleaning water should be disposed of in a sink or drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer. Contact your utility with questions.
- Comply with your utility Temporary Discharge Permit when stripping floors.

Kitchen Grease

- Grease blockages can clog sewer lines, releasing raw sewage into our creeks or within the facility.
- Pour kitchen grease into a container and then put it in the trash.
- Wipe out greasy pots and pans with paper towels.

Painting Activities

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.
- Water based paint brushes may be rinsed in a sink connected to the sanitary sewer (i.e., indoor plumbing).
- It is illegal to dump any hazardous materials into storm drains, sinks, toilets, the trash, or on the ground.
- Excess paint may be taken to an Alachua County Hazardous Waste Collection Center. Call (352) 334-0440 for guidance.
- Store all painting-related products in a covered area away from floor drains and storm drains. Keep a stock of absorbent material to catch any spills.

Leaky Cars

- Encourage owners of leaky cars to fix them.
- Use kitty litter to soak up oil spills and bring it to the Alachua County Hazardous Waste Collection Center (352) 334-0440.

Landscape Activities

- Select native species that are drought tolerant.
- Install and maintain rainfall sensors and/or soil moisture probes for automatic sprinklers.
- Don't use fertilizers (or minimize use with low nitrogen and zero phosphorus fertilizers like 6-0-6).
- Only water when plants show signs of stress (folded leaf blades, footprints remain visible) on your designated day of the week (Tues and/or Fri depending on the season).
- Remove and compost grass clippings blown into roadways and sidewalks - never blow these into a storm drain or street.

Dumpsters

- Do not overfill dumpsters.
- Keep dumpster lids closed and drain plugs in place.
- Replace leaky dumpsters.
- Post signs stating prohibited wastes.
- Don't place liquids in dumpsters.
- Do not place dumpsters where litter and leaks will enter a storm drain.

ONLY
RAIN **DOWN** **THE**
DRAIN

Use these BMPs to avoid fines and protect our water.

AlachuaCountyWater.org

