



CITY OF WEST MIAMI

REPORT POLLUTION!

Call the hotline if you observe any of the following:

- Illegal Dumping
- Trash & Debris
- Foul Smells
- Spills
- Unusual Colors
- Cloudiness

**Stormwater Pollution Hotline -
(305) 266-0530**

City of West Miami
901 SW 62nd Avenue
Miami FL, 33144
(305) 266-4214

An important message regarding West Miami illicit discharge and connection ordinance that may affect your business.



NPDES Stormwater Program
901 SW 62 Avenue West
Miami, FL 33144

Stormwater Pollution Prevention
Best Management Practices

Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance Industry

BMP'S



*An important message from the
City of West Miami about stormwater
pollution laws and how they can
affect your business.*

Common Stormwater Pollutants from the Landscape & Lawn Maintenance Industries

Routine activities like fertilizing the grass, applying pesticides, overwatering, and blowing lawn clippings into the street are a major source of stormwater pollution. Every time it rains, excess rainwater carries these contaminants into the stormwater sewer system, which leads directly to our waters.

Lawn clippings blown onto paved surfaces create a huge problem. Besides clogging storm drains which could lead to localized flooding, the clippings carry chemicals that contaminate the water. As the organic waste starts to decompose, it absorbs dissolved oxygen in the water, which kills aquatic life.

You can do your part to help restore these waters by implementing Best Management Practices to prevent stormwater pollution.

Best Management Practices

1. Dispose of yard debris properly by keeping lawn clippings, leaves and debris out of street gutters. It is illegal to blow clippings onto paved areas, including streets and parking lots. Practice grasscycling by blowing grass clippings back onto the lawn where they will quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. When off-site disposal is required, dispose of at a recycling or compost facility.

2. Apply pesticides according to the label and only when needed.

3. Mow grass to proper height and frequency to maintain turf health and minimize fertilizer and pesticide use.

4. Aerate lawns to improve water and nutrient uptake, reducing runoff and compaction.

5. Use organic mulch to reduce water loss through evaporation, prevent erosion, suppress weeds and improve the soil for plant growth.

6. Choose native and/or Florida friendly plants that are drought tolerant and pest resistant when developing your landscape. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides. Furthermore, exotic plants can potentially invade local waterways. For assistance in choosing your landscape materials, a helpful resource can be found at Floridaswater.com where you can find a waterwise plant list featuring more than 800 species. Local nurseries can also assist in choosing appropriate plant species.

7. Plant non-turf areas where possible because lawns require more water and maintenance than wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

8. Use Integrated Pest Management techniques to prevent pest damage with the least risk of environmental damage.

9. Use low-volume watering approaches where possible such as drip-type or micro-irrigation systems. Water plants only when needed to enhance plant root growth and avoid runoff problems. Much of the water that is applied to lawns is not absorbed. If it is applied too quickly, it is lost to runoff. Make sure irrigation timers are set to comply with Melbourne's watering restrictions.

10. Shut off and adjust an irrigation system when water falls or runs onto impervious surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, or driveways. Maintain the irrigation system for optimal performance.



In the City of West Miami it is against The law to use fertilizer:

- From June 1- September 30
- Within 15 feet of a water body
- That contains Phosphate

Only use slow-release fertilizer with Nitrogen of not less than 50%

Illicit Discharge Ordinance How it Affects Your Business

Continuing its commitment to prevent stormwater pollution from entering community waters, West Miami City Council recently adopted the Illicit Discharge & Connection Ordinance, which establishes rules and provides for penalties to prohibit illicit discharges and connections into the storm sewer drain system.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE: It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge any pollutants or waters containing pollutants into the City's storm drain system – whether such discharges occur through piping connections, runoff, exfiltration, infiltration, seepage or leaks.

ILLICIT CONNECTION: No Person may maintain, use or establish any direct or indirect connection to any storm sewer owned by the city that results in an illicit discharge. This section is retroactive, and applies to all illicit connections made in the past regardless of circumstances. A common source of pollution is a floor drain improperly connected to a storm drain.

ENFORCEMENT: Your facility may be selected for a random spot inspection. It may also be inspected as a result of observed behavior by city staff, as a result of illicit discharge detection in your immediate area, or as a result of a call received from the City's illicit discharge hotline.

PENALTIES: Those found in violation could be subject to: abatement and restoration; prosecution before the Code Enforcement Board; fines, penalties and any other punishment described in City Code and cost recovery for water sampling, monitoring, and other remediation expenses.

Take steps now to ensure compliance. Start by identifying and removing any illicit connections to the storm system. Develop a pollution prevention plan and train your employees to use Best Management Practices. For guidance, ideas, and tips, visit our website at:

www.cityofwestmiamifl.com/stormwater