



LANDSCAPE & LAWN SERVICE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Proper yard care, equipment management, and handling of chemicals and waste, can prevent pollutants from entering Orlando's lakes through the stormwater system.

- **DIRECT GRASS CLIPPINGS AND/OR LEAVES AWAY FROM PAVED AREAS AND STORM DRAINS TO AVOID NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING AND LAKE DEGRADATION.**
- **BLOW GRASS CLIPPINGS AND LEAVES BACK ONTO LAWNS FOR USE AS MULCH OR BAG THEM FOR YARD WASTE COLLECTION.** Direct mower chutes away from paved areas, storm drains, and waterbodies.
- **USE LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS AND NON-TOXIC PESTICIDES WHEN POSSIBLE. ONLY APPLY DURING DRY WEATHER.** Use sparingly (follow instructions on package) and avoid applying within 10 feet of paved areas, storm drains, or waterbodies. If any dry chemicals or fertilizer should fall onto paved areas, immediately sweep or blow back onto lawn or properly contain for re-use.
- **UTILIZE NATIVE PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND TREES IN YOUR LANDSCAPE.** This may reduce your need for watering, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- **KEEP SEDIMENT AND YARD WASTE PILES AWAY FROM PAVED AREAS, STORM DRAINS, AND WATERBODIES.** Cover lightweight or fine material piles to keep from blowing and/or eroding away.
- **STORE CHEMICALS OUT OF RAIN AND UNDER A ROOF.** Keep chemicals stored in original containers with the label attached. Keep away from paved areas, storm drains, and waterbodies. Landscape chemicals not only include fertilizers and pesticides, but also lubricants, waste oil, fuel, antifreeze, hydraulic oil, etc.
- **STORE STOCKPILES AND EQUIPMENT OUT OF RAIN AND WIND WHEN POSSIBLE.** If outdoors, cover with plastic sheeting and drain fluids from equipment left for long-term storage.
- **INSPECT EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES OFTEN FOR LEAKS.** Transfer fluids carefully – use drip pans or drop cloths to catch spills.
- **WHEN SPILLS OCCUR, USE DRY CLEAN-UP METHODS ONLY, DO NOT HOSE.** Keep absorbent materials on hand and clean up immediately to prevent contamination of soils and waterbodies.
- **CONFIRM THAT ALL SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE LICENSED AND FOLLOW PROPER INDUSTRY PROCEDURES TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION.**

Remember...ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!!

**For more information, please contact the
Think Blue Business Program at 407-246-2257,
or visit our website at www.cityoforlando.net/thinkblue**