

Clean Water begins at home!

Yard & Garden

Normal yard maintenance activities such as watering, fertilizing, applying pesticides, or disposing of clippings can all contribute to water pollution problems if not done properly. The suggestions below will help reduce or prevent pollutant runoff:

- Practice organic gardening to eliminate the need to use pesticides and fertilizers. Contact WSU Extension Master Gardener Program at (360) 397-6060 for information on earth-friendly gardening (<http://ext100.wsu.edu/clark/gardening/mg/>).
- Save water and prevent pollution problems by not over-watering, which can wash nutrients into the nearest body of water. Lawns and gardens typically need the equivalent of one inch of rainfall per week. You can check the amount of water by putting empty tuna or cat food cans out where you're watering to measure the water depth.
- Compost all yard clippings, and/or use a mulching lawn mower. Using clippings as mulch saves water and keeps down weeds.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions precisely for mixing and applying herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. Use them sparingly. Never apply them when it's windy or rain is expected. Never apply over water or within 100 feet of a well, or adjacent to streams or other waterways.



- Triple-rinse empty containers and use the rinse water to complete the application or save it for your next spray. Double-bag empty containers and put in the garbage.
- Use manufacturer's directions in applying fertilizers and avoid leaving them on driveways and sidewalks where they can wash off. Never apply over water or adjacent to ditches, streams, or other water bodies. Organic fertilizers' slow release of nitrogen is less likely to pollute than synthetic fertilizers.
- When buying fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals, buy only the amount you need for your project. Share the leftovers with friends or neighbors or safely dispose of them at one of the two household hazardous waste disposal stations in Clark County. Disposal is free.
- Never dispose of grass clippings or other vegetation in or near storm drains, streams, lakes, or wetlands.
- Consider planting a vegetated buffer zone adjacent to streams or other water bodies on your property. Call the Clark Conservation District at (360) 883-1987 for advice and assistance in creating a plan.
- Store all fertilizers and pesticides in a covered location, out of the rain.
- Pull weeds instead of spraying. If you must spray, use the least toxic formulations that will get the job done. The folks in the Master Gardener Program (see front) can help advise you on which spray to use.
- Work fertilizers into the soil instead of letting them lie on the ground surface where they may be washed away by the next rain storm.



For more information, please call the Clark County Clean Water Division at (360) 397-2121 or visit www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater.



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.