

# Stormwater Tips for Homeowners



## Lawn and Yard Care

- Be sure not to leave grass clippings or other yard waste along curbs or ditches because they can enter the storm drain and pollute our waterways with excess nutrients.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Use organic or non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers as directed, and keep them away from ditches, gutters and storm drains. Store them in a covered area, off the ground, to prevent contact with water.



Image borrowed from <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water.html>

- Compost and mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before rain is forecast.
- Bank and berm around home construction projects to prevent erosion and sediment from clogging streams, stormwater catch basins and stormwater drains.
- Avoid hosing down your garage floor and driveway; instead, sweep regularly.



- Leave grass clippings on your lawn as an alternate nutrient to fertilizer. If a fertilizer is necessary, choose a slow-release product and test your soil to find out how much fertilizer your lawn actually needs.
- A soil test is an inexpensive and informative way to determine the quality of your soil. The laboratory will test soil pH, nutrient content, and percentage of organic matter. From these results, you can determine exactly what nutrients your lawn and garden need, which will help minimize the use of chemical which can runoff into streams. A soil test is free in NC, more information can be found on the North Carolina Department of Agriculture website: <http://www.ncagr.com/agronomi/>

