

## Tips to Reduce Water Consumption and Pollution :

- Test the soil before applying fertilizer.
- Aerate the soil to prevent compaction and increase infiltration.
- Spot spray the weeds with herbicide rather than treating the whole yard.
- Mulch flower beds to stop weeds and reduce water evaporation.
- Overseed with grass species that are adapted to your climate and pests.
- Water deeply but less frequently.



## Please be a responsible landscaper



For more information on water quality and stormwater management, go to:

[www.StormwaterSMART.org](http://www.StormwaterSMART.org)

or contact

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## Landscape to Improve Water Quality



**Stop and think how your actions are affecting our waters!**



## The Problem?

Lawn Chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers pollute our streams and lakes. Excess nutrients from lawn fertilizers and yard waste can cause algal blooms, fish kills, and increased cost for water treatment if allowed to get into our waters!



## How Can You Help?

1. Never apply fertilizer or chemicals right before a storm!
2. Avoid getting fertilizer and chemicals on concrete and asphalt surfaces.
3. Blow or sweep excess materials back into the lawn or landscape.
4. Never sweep or blow anything into the storm drain!



## Dispose of Yard Waste Properly

Grass clippings, leaves, sticks and limbs should be composted or taken to a landfill or an approved disposal site.

Remember, yard waste removed by a commercial landscaper cannot be placed at the curb for pickup.

Yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, sticks and limbs can block underground drainage pipes and culverts, which causes dangerous flooding.

## Use Pesticides and Herbicides Sparingly

- Please follow label instructions for proper application of lawn chemicals.
- Never apply lawn chemicals just before a rainstorm.
- Pesticides and fertilizers can easily be washed off of lawns and gardens, and flow untreated into creeks and lakes.

