

## Washing Vehicles

If you wash cars on paved driveways or parking lots, oil and dirty water ends up in our lakes and streams. In addition, phosphates in the soap you use act like fertilizer causing excess growth of weeds and algae. These decompose and use up oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Wash your car at a commercial car wash. The dirty water from the car wash is recycled or goes to the wastewater system for processing.
- 2) Wash your car on a grassy surface so water can infiltrate into the ground.
- 3) Use the minimum amount of detergents necessary and use products that are phosphate free.
- 4) Thinking of having a fundraiser car wash? Team up with a commercial car wash. Call your local car wash to ask if they offer fundraising options for schools, teams, or charities.

## Pet Waste and Water Quality

Pet waste can contain disease-causing organisms, including roundworms, Salmonella, E. coli and Parvovirus. Even when pet waste looks like it has washed away, many of these pathogens can survive for extended periods of time in soil and water. People and pets can come into contact with pathogens while playing in grass, gardening, swimming, fishing, or boating. If not picked up, pathogens from pet waste wash into storm drains, polluting local wetlands, creeks, and the St. Johns River.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Pick up after your pet - *every time*.
- 2) Dispose of pet waste by bagging and placing it in the garbage; **never** dump or wash it into the street or storm drain.
- 3) When out on walks or traveling, take plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste.

## Leaves and Grass Clippings

Your yard can be a source of stormwater pollution. Rainwater carries leaves and grass clippings into the storm drain where it flows **untreated** to streams and creeks. The excessive nutrients found in leaves and grass clippings, when washed down storm drains, can cause algae blooms that reduce oxygen levels in water, harming aquatic plants and wildlife. In addition, grass and leaves can clog storm drains and sewers causing backups and flooding.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Mow grass to proper height and frequency to maintain turf health.
- 2) Use a mower with a mulching blade.
- 3) **Never** sweep, blow or wash grass clippings into streets or storm sewers. Blow clippings back onto the lawn.
- 4) Collect and bag grass clippings and leaves for pickup and composting.

## Erosion and Sedimentation

Sediment, soil particles carried by wind or water, is one of the greatest pollutants by volume entering our lakes and rivers and is the result of erosion. Sediment fills lakes and streams leading to increased flooding and the need for costly dredging. In aquatic systems, sediment filters out sunlight disrupting the food chain. It can also impair spawning and clog fish gills. While sediment is commonly associated with construction sites, home owners have a part to play too.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Plant and maintain vegetation, especially on bare and sloped areas.
- 2) Route roof drainage to lawns, pavement or rain barrels.
- 3) If you see sediment washing into a street or storm drain from a disturbed site on station, please contact the Station's Stormwater Program Manager (542-8129).

## Fertilizing Your Lawn

One of the greatest threats to water quality in our lakes and rivers is nitrogen runoff in rainwater. Improper and over use of fertilizer in residential areas is one of the main contributors to this problem. Whatever washes off of your lawn will end up in the river.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Use fertilizers at recommended rates. Excess fertilizer washes off lawns and wastes your money.
- 2) When possible use a drop fertilizer spreader rather than a rotary spreader in order to keep fertilizer granules from landing on non-target areas such as streets or sidewalks.
- 3) Fertilizer that falls on the sidewalk or street should be swept up or blown back onto the lawn or garden.
- 4) Use slow release fertilizers which are more likely to be taken up by your plants rather than washing away.

## Environmental Division Contacts

Building 1  
Corner of Yorktown Avenue and Langley Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32212  
Fax: 904-542-4368

<u>Program</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Stormwater Manager	542-8129
Environmental Director	542-5789
Environmental Management System	542-5927
Hazardous Waste Manager	542-5251
Hazardous Waste Inspectors	542-3492/4283
Air Manager	542-5285
Installation Restoration Manager	542-4228
Pollution Prevention Manager	542-4229
Tanks/Spill Response/Oil Manager	542-3016
Natural Resources Manager	542-2798



## Naval Air Station Jacksonville

### A Guide to Stormwater Pollution Prevention: How You Can Help



Environmental Division  
Public Works Department  
Building 1  
Phone: 904-542-8129

## Stormwater Systems

### Did you know?

At Naval Air Station Jacksonville we have two very different “sewer” systems. Liquids that enter the **SANITARY** sewer system, typically through sinks, toilets, and floor drains, flow to the station’s wastewater treatment plant. There they are treated in a series of processes to disinfect the flow and remove contaminants. Conversely, liquids and materials entering the **STORM** sewer system receive little to no treatment prior to discharge. The only treatment that stormwater may receive is if it is absorbed into the soil or taken up by plants that grow in storm ponds or ditches. However, most stormwater sewer lines have no treatment at all as they are comprised of steel culverts and concrete lined ditches that speed the flow of stormwater to the river.

Because of the nature of stormwater system designs, our personal practices have a significant effect on water quality in the St. Johns River and other nearby water bodies. Whatever you drip, drop, sweep or blow into storm drains or even just onto streets, piers and parking lots will most likely ultimately end up in the river. While most people are probably aware of the adverse effects of oil and chemicals on fish and other aquatic species, people should also be aware of the adverse effects of such materials as soil, grass clippings, cigarette butts, and litter. Naval Air Station has processes for getting rid of all types of wastes. Sweeping them into streets and storm drains isn’t one of them.



## Household Hazardous Waste

**DO NOT POUR** oil or other chemicals down any drain or in the street. In addition, **DO NOT PLACE** these wastes in your household trash can for curbside pick up. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - such as those items listed below - should be properly disposed through the Duval County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility or at mobile collection sites during the year throughout the county. Check the City of Jacksonville’s website ([www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)) under the Public Works/Solid Waste Division for the mobile collection site schedule.

The Duval County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is located at 2675 Commonwealth Avenue, Jacksonville, and operates Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. This service is free for Duval County residents. For more information or to arrange for special handling of unusual material, call 387-8847.

### What can you take to the Duval County HHW Facility?

- Paint & Stains
- Paint Thinners & Paint Strippers
- Vehicle, Boat, & Household Batteries
- Photographic Chemicals
- Thermometers & Thermostats
- Drain Cleaners
- Pool Chemicals
- Aerosol Cans
- Pesticides
- Brake Fluid & Antifreeze
- Waste Oil
- Fertilizer
- Acids
- Ammunition, Gun powder, & Fireworks
- Fluorescent Bulbs & Tubes
- Electronic Wastes such as CPUs, Computer Monitors, and Televisions

Naval Air Station Jacksonville departments and other Navy organizations must arrange for disposal of non-household hazardous waste through the Public Works Department Hazardous Waste Facility (Bldg. 147) – call 542-5979.

## Illicit Discharges

### What is an Illicit Discharge?

Anytime a discharge occurs to our stormwater system (ditch, storm drain, catch basin, culvert, etc...) that is *not composed entirely of stormwater* – except for potable water and fire fighting related discharges – it is considered an illicit discharge and must be reported and corrected. Illicit discharges that are reported while in progress can often be corrected quickly and may result in little or no pollution entering a body of water. Water in the stormwater system that has an odd odor, is murky or discolored, or has significant floatable materials is suspect. Water in the stormwater system during extended dry weather should also be considered suspicious.

Common illicit discharges include illegal dumping, broken sanitary sewer lines, cross connections, improper sediment control practices, connection of floor drains to the stormwater system, and failing septic systems.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Contact the Station’s stormwater program manager (542-8129) if you suspect an illicit discharge.
- 2) Take notes – location, time, odor, description, activities occurring at time of the discharge.

### Cooking Fats, Oil, and Grease

When cooking oil or grease from restaurants and households are discharged to the station’s sanitary sewer system it mixes with other wastes and becomes solidified. This creates a blockage in sewer pipes causing sewage to overflow into streets, buildings, and rivers.

### How You Can Help

- 1) **DO NOT** put greasy food items down the drain or garbage disposal. Always use sink basket strainers to collect food wastes.
- 2) Wipe dishes, pots and pans with a paper towel to remove excess grease before washing.
- 3) Place grease in a container to solidify and throw away in the garbage.

## The Law

The Federal Clean Water Act was established to protect our waterways. This legislation was passed in response to growing public concerns for serious and widespread water pollution. As a result, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System was developed, and our nation’s waterways have shown an increase in quality. Station permits and instructions prohibit placing anything into the stormwater system that isn’t rain or drinking water. Please participate with us in this effort by finding ways that you can help.

## Floatable Trash

Floatable trash (such as plastic bottles, plastic straws, cigarette butts, plastic grocery bags, polystyrene foam cups, fast food containers, and glass bottles) has become a major pollutant in the United States including right here in North Florida. Studies have shown that approximately 80 percent of the floatable debris found in the world’s oceans originates from sources found on shore. Not only does the debris build up in the St. Johns River and the ocean, detracting from their natural beauty and our outdoor experience, it poses a threat to aquatic wildlife and marine habitats. Countless deaths of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and seabirds have been documented as caused by entanglement and from consuming floating debris resulting in starvation and suffocation.

### How You Can Help

- 1) Place trash where it belongs – in trash cans.
- 2) Keep lids closed on dumpsters and garbage cans.
- 3) Secure loads in trucks.
- 4) Keep litter bags for use in your vehicle.
- 5) Clean up after yourself at outdoor events.
- 6) Eliminate use of plastic straws.