

## HOME AND GARDEN

Yard waste and household toxics such as paints, solvents, and pesticides often make their way into the “*permit-holding entity name here*” storm sewer system and DO NOT GET TREATED before reaching the local waterways. These wastes pollute drinking water and make waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.

The following practices will help prevent storm water pollution.

### **In Your Home**

Household products such as paints, paint thinners, drain openers, motor oil, wood polishes, insecticides and herbicides, oven cleaners, and many other general cleaners frequently get dumped on the ground or into a gutter or street or storm sewer. Instead of polluting our storm waters, take these items to a household hazardous waste collection facility. Call XXX-XXXX for a facility in your area.

### **Fertilizers and Pesticides**

Fertilizers and pesticides are often carried into our storm sewers by sprinkler runoff. To minimize storm water pollution, use organic or nontoxic pesticides and fertilizers as directed, and keep them away from ditches, gutters, and storm sewers. Store them in a covered area off the ground to prevent contact with water. For additional gardening questions, call XXX-XXXX.

### **Garden and Yard Maintenance**

Decaying organic materials entering our storm sewers, such as grass, leaves, yard clippings, and pet waste, use up oxygen in nearby receiving waters and stress aquatic life. Prevent storm water pollution by not blowing, sweeping, raking, or hosing yard waste into the street, gutter, or storm sewer. Alternatively, leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing or compost your clippings and yard waste. Pet waste should not be composted, but rather disposed of in the trash to prevent the potential spread of diseases.

### **Planting in the Yard**

Produce less yard waste and save water by planting low-maintenance trees and shrubs. Also, conserve water and minimize unwanted runoff by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or microspray systems to water vegetation.

For more information, call your city’s storm water representative at XXX-XXXX.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document represents a careful consolidation, distillation, and restatement of storm water-related information, policies, and regulations obtained from other sources including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the United States Census Bureau. Prior to implementing any of the best management practices and recommendations stated within this document, it is suggested the reader review the original sources of this information in detail.