CONCRETE AND ALSPHALT

Traditional concrete and asphalt does not allow water to percolate. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water.

Permeable paving (known as pervious or porous pavement) defines the method of paving a surface so that it allows the flow of water through it. This allows stormwater to filter through the soil below the paved surface, preventing numerous environmental issues associated with water runoff. This provides a "green" asphalt alternative and an effective method of erosion control. .

RAIN BARRELS

are an excellent way to conserve resources and reduce the amount of well or municipal water you use. In the past few years, we've heard more and more about the environmental movement to "Go Green," and rain barrels help this movement by not only conserving water but by filtering out some of the chemicals that you find in tap water, such as chlorine and fluoride. In addition, rain water has no calcium or lime buildups, less sediment and dissolved salts, and it's softer and naturally warmer than tap water. All of these reasons help make stored rainwater a perfect choice for watering your garden.

CAR CARE

Few people realize that washing our cars in our driveways is one of the most environmentally un-friendly chores we can do around the house. Unlike household wastewater that enters sewers or septic systems and undergoes treatment before it is discharged into the environment, what runs off from your car goes right into storm drains and eventually into rivers, streams, creeks, and wetlands where it poisons aquatic life and wreaks other ecosystem havoc. After all, that water is loaded with a witch's brew of gasoline , oils and residues from exhausts fumes, as well as the harsh detergents used for washing.

STORM DRAINS

When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on sidewalks, streets, parking lots and yards wash down the storm drains, and into the nearest body of water. Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris and are not connected to the sewer system. So, any pollutants that flows into the storm drains system eventually ends up in our lakes and ocean. City crew work to keep storm drains clear, but with thousands of drains we could use your help. With your assistance, we can keep the streets safe, clear, and reduce property damage caused by flooding.

FLORIDA
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CITY OF
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Discover the Opportunities

STORMWATER, POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

OUR WATER, TAKE IT PERSONALLY!

Illegal Dumping Hotline

Miami Dade County—Dial 311

City of Homestead Code Compliance

(305) 224-5580

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

One of the most significant, yet unrecognized groups of water contaminants is *storm water pollutants.* When it rains, storm water runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks, and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. Eventually, the water will travel to a stream, either over land or via a storm drain. Storm drains are frequently located alongside streets and parking lots. Unlike sanitary sewers that divert water to a treatment plant directly from your home, storm drains lead directly to surrounding lakes and rivers without any type of treatment. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by storm water runoff, end up in body of water. Most contaminants are made up of common items used by residents, businesses, and visitors, such as fertilizers, car oils and greases, yard clippings, soil, and pet wastes.

THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

Polluted stormwater runoffs can have many adverse effects on plants, fish animals, and people.

- *Sediment in the water reduces light penetration and affects photosynthesis, the process that allows plants to use light as their source of energy*

-When green waste decays in water it uses up oxygen, taking vital oxygen away from plants, fish, and other aquatic animals. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitants

-Soil makes waterways cloudy and can suffocate fish by clogging their gills

-Litter clogs waterways and causes toxicity as it breaks down. It affects the health of birds, fish and other animals and plants that live in the waterways.

Stormwater eventually feeds into our waterways. Healthy waterways mean a healthy future for the environment and the economy– and for us.

-Bacteria and viruses in stormwater can pose a health risk to humans. It can be dangerous to swim immediately after rain.

-Pollution destroys the visual amenity of our waterways

-Storm water contaminant s are one of the main cause of increased bacteria levels at our local beaches.

LAWN CARE

Not many residents understand that lawn fertilizer can cause water quality problems. Simply mowing, watering, fertilizing and raking your yard less in addition to using no pesticides, may be your way to a healthy and environmentally friendly lawn and less stormwater runoff, resulting in fewer chemicals flowing into the City's storm drains system.

Planting trees is another green initiative that helps retain rainwater on their leaves and trunk, reducing the amount of water runoff. Trees soak up water in the soils through their roots.

A rain garden is an attractive garden with a special purpose—to reduce the amount of rain water and pollutants entering our water system. A rain garden is a place to direct the rain from the roof or driveways, and more importantly to retain that rain onsite instead of discharging to the storm drain system. Rain gardens are typically landscaped with plant species native to our region that can survive in varying wet and dry conditions, that have deep roots to improve soil conditions, and that add beauty.