

# There's Still Time to Protect Your Waterfront

Waterfront homeowners can help protect water quality by following these tips:

- ✓ Designate a "maintenance-free zone" of at least 10 feet between your lawn or landscape and the water body. Don't mow, fertilize or apply pesticides to this buffer area.
- ✓ Plant a six-foot buffer zone of low-maintenance plants between your lawn and the shoreline to absorb nutrients and provide a wildlife habitat.
- ✓ Install appropriate aquatic plants to prevent soil erosion.
- ✓ Never prune mangroves or remove any vegetation without first seeking proper permits and guidelines. If you have mangroves, contact the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection or your local government's natural resources department for information on proper management.
- ✓ Remove invasive aquatic plants such as water lettuce, hydrilla and water hyacinth by cutting, pulling or raking.
- ✓ Use fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides sparingly or not at all.
- ✓ Use mulch around plants to retain moisture.
- ✓ Wash your car at a commercial car wash that uses recycled water, or wash it on the lawn using natural cleaning products.
- ✓ Pick up litter, fertilizer, grass clippings, motor oil and pet waste before these materials enter storm drains and flow into water bodies.

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

This information will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please contact the Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4757; TDD only at 1-800-231-6103 (FL only). VISPT 08/08

## Protect Natural Floodplain Resources

- Floodplains, wetlands, and coastal barrier resources or land use regulations, such as zoning, can be used to steer development away from sensitive or natural areas.
- Beach nourishment and dune rebuilding can be used to protect inland development by maintaining the natural flood protection features.



- Don't dump grass or other items in storm drains.
- Stay away from turtle nesting areas.
- Keep our creeks and streams clean and free of debris.
- Stay off sand dunes and do not disturb grass used as dune stabilization.
- Protect Florida's mangrove species which filter oil and associated storm-water run off.

For more information on floodplain mitigation, visit:

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

Florida Division of Emergency Management