

TOWN OF
Herndon
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADVISES ON PROPER SPRINGTIME LAWN CARE

Did you know that everything that enters the stormwater system is discharged directly into the nearest waterbody without being cleaned or treated?

Using too much fertilizer or other lawn care product can cause water pollution. Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and yard waste can pollute the local waterbodies including the Chesapeake Bay when they are blown, dumped, or washed into the stormwater system. Here are a few tips on how you can help protect our waterways from pollution:

- Use a mulching blade on the lawn mower. Do NOT blow grass clippings into the street or down storm drains.
- Perform a soil test to determine proper fertilizer application rates. Use non-toxic products, slow release, and organic fertilizers.
- Conserve water, pesticides, and fertilizers by using native and/or adapted plants. Place mulch around trees and plants.
- Follow product instructions on chemical storage, application, and disposal
- Control the use of airborne sprays so they do not land on surfaces where the rain will wash them into the stormwater system. Keep fertilizer applications at least 20 feet away from the edge of a waterbody Never apply chemicals just before a rain event.
- Cover stockpiled material such as mulch, soil, or sand. Use silt fences or a similar barrier during large landscaping projects.
- Direct rain water to gardens or lawn areas
- Follow proper procedures if a spill occurs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, etc)
- NEVER dispose of leaves, limbs or other yard debris near or in a local waterway – haul it away

REMEMBER- ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!