

# YARD WASTE



## Be an Everyday Clean Water Hero!

Be AWARE, take ACTION, report ACTIVITIES  
that adversely affect streams, drainage channels and the ocean.

### BE AWARE:

Nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, occur naturally in water, soil and air. Just as the nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer aids the growth of agricultural crops, both nutrients are vital to the growth of plants within streams. When it rains, large amounts of leaves, fruits and branches can runoff into storm drains, clogging drainage channels and causing algae blooms (overgrowth of aquatic plants that smother other aquatic life). These blooms block sunlight needed by underwater plants that provide habitat, and the algae's decay robs the water of dissolved oxygen needed by aquatic life.

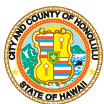
### TAKE ACTION:

- Contain yard waste and place it at the curb for recycling collection. Prevent blowing, hosing or sweeping of grass clippings, leaves, flowers, fruits, tree cuttings and other yard waste into the storm drain and prevent dumping of yard waste in drainage channels.
- Use fallen leaves for mulching.
- Compost your biodegradable wastes.
- Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings in lawn after mowing. The nitrogen from the clippings acts as a natural fertilizer.
- Minimize impermeable paving to reduce yard runoff. Consider using open pavers, grass paving or other permeable paving that lets the rain soak into the soil.
- Download a copy of the Backyard Conservation Booklet at [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/hero/good\\_neighbor.html](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/hero/good_neighbor.html)
- Clean leaves and trash out of downspouts, roofs and street gutters.
- When using a yard service, be sure they follow these guidelines. **It is both the property owner and yard services responsibility.**

### REPORT ACTIVITIES:

City's Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300 or visit  
[www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com)

Reference: Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Branch,  
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/policy.html>, [http://envhonolulu.org/solid\\_waste/](http://envhonolulu.org/solid_waste/)



# 9 POLLUTION TIPS

## NEIGHBORHOOD

1. **Keep It Clean** - It is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters in front of your property clean.
2. **Dump No Waste** - Stencil storm drains with the message, "Dump No Waste, Protect Our Waters...For Life," and keep waste materials from polluting our waterways.
3. **Do It Right** - Use water-based paint and dispose properly.

## CAR

4. **Use an Oil Change Box** - If you change your own oil be careful not to spill it in the street where it could enter the storm drain. Have old rags or other absorbent material handy to pick up the mess in case of a spill
5. **Use Water and Soap Sparingly** - Wash your car with a bucket, sponge, and nozzle on the end of the hose to conserve water and reduce the pollutants entering the ocean; too many pollutants in the water decreases water quality and can harm aquatic life.

## YARD

6. **Cover Up** - Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property by replacing bare soil with vegetative cover or mulch and covering temporary stockpiles with tarps. Plant right for your site.
7. **Read the Label** - Read and follow the label on all fertilizers and pesticides. The label is the law.
8. **Yard Maintenance** - Gather leaves, grass clippings, and yard trimmings for proper disposal or composting. Practice smart watering. Use open pavers or other permeable paving that lets the rain soak into the soil. Minimize impermeable paving.
9. **Pick It Up** - Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area.

### Laws and Ordinances

The Federal Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority of implement water pollution control programs. Local statutes and ordinances address compliance and enforcement of the EPA's mandates.

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12-23(a) Environmental Quality Control—Violation states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.

**Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.**

*Department of  
Facility Maintenance*

[www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com)