

# Tips to Reduce Water Consumption and Pollution:

- Test the soil before applying fertilizer.
- Aerate the soil to prevent compaction and increase infiltration.
- Spot spray the weeds with herbicide rather than treating the whole yard.
- Mulch flower beds to stop weeds and reduce water evaporation.
- Overseed with grass species that are adapted to your climate and pests.
- Water deeply but less frequently.



For more information on water quality and stormwater management go to:

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

or contact

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PIEDMONT TRIAD  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Stormwater SMART Member Governments:  
Davidson County, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Archdale, Asheboro, Burlington, Elon, Gibsonville, Graham, Green Level, Haw River, High Point, Lexington, Mebane, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Randleman, Reidsville, Thomasville & Trinity.

# Landscape to Improve Water Quality



Please protect our waters by landscaping responsibly



## The Problem?

Lawn chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers pollute our streams and lakes. Excess nutrients from lawn fertilizers and yard waste can cause algal blooms, fish kills, and increased cost for water treatment.



## How Can You Help?

- Never apply fertilizer or pesticides right before a storm.
- Avoid getting fertilizer and pesticides on concrete and asphalt surfaces.
- Blow or sweep excess materials back into the lawn or landscape.
- Never sweep or blow anything into the storm drain!



## Properly Dispose of Yard Waste

Grass clippings, leaves, sticks and limbs should be composted or taken to a landfill or an approved disposal site.

Remember, yard waste removed by a commercial landscaper cannot be placed at the curb for pickup.

Yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, and sticks and limbs can block underground drainage pipes and culverts and cause flooding.

It's illegal to dump yard waste or landscaping products into storm drains, ditches and streams. You could face a hefty fine!

## Disposing of Pesticides and Herbicides

- Follow proper procedure and only use the amount needed for the job.
- Try giving leftover pesticides and herbicides to your friends and neighbors or donate them to a community or religious organization that may benefit from their use.
- Never throw leftover pesticides or herbicides in the trash. Check with your local government to find the nearest hazardous waste facility
- Never pour leftover pesticides or herbicides down the storm drain, or down the sink.

