



# PROTECT FLORIDA'S WATER, STOP POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTION

## Nonpoint Source Pollution

A SERIES OF FACT SHEETS FOR FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION

### Did You Know That...

- ◆ At least 50% of the water quality problems in the U.S. result from NPS pollution (EPA).
- ◆ Five quarts of used motor oil can create an oil slick two football fields in size.
- ◆ Yard fertilizer runoff from residential areas is estimated to be responsible for one third of the excess nitrogen polluting our waterways.
- ◆ The first inch of runoff generally carries 90% of the pollution from a storm (FDEP).
- ◆ Storm drains do not go to sewage treatment plants, they lead directly to bodies of water.

### What is NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Commonly referred to as stormwater runoff or urban runoff, nonpoint source pollution is water pollution that cannot be traced to its specific origin or starting point.

NPS pollution comes from our home, yards, streets and farms. For example, substances such as detergents, pesticides, oil, lawn clippings and soil erosion from lawns and construction sites pollute our waterways.

Every time it rains, these substances run off of the land and flow through our storm drainage systems directly to our lakes, streams and rivers.

**This process causes more than half of the pollution to our water bodies.**

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