

To All Residents and Businesses
WHAT IS NPDES?
(National Pollution Discharge Elimination System)

NPDES is a Federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Mandate (under the 1960's Clean Water Act) that is overseen by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and applies to our Town.

What does this mean to us?

In simple terms, it is a program that the Town is required to monitor, report on, and enforce to ensure that rainfall runoff is as clean as it can be when it enters the storm drainage systems in the Town and ultimately the waters of Florida.

What can residents and businesses do to help the Town to comply?

All of us can help by taking the following measures:

- 1) Do not throw or dispose of any materials, including lawn clippings, paint, oil, household cleaners, etc., into drainage storm inlets or onto the roadways. These type of items can legally be disposed of by the Solid Waste Authority (SWA-contact info available from Town Hall Tel:848-1235)**
- 2) Carefully apply herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides per manufacturer's directions and do not apply before or during rainfall events.**
- 3) Keep your driveways swept and do not blow lawn clippings, etc. into roadways and drainage inlets.**
- 4) Keep any eye out and report to the Town any sewage leaks or septic tank failures; these type of failures ultimately can flow into the drainage systems.**
- 5) Report any spills of gas, oils, etc. to the Town, and if needed, a hazardous response team will be notified to clean up the spill.**
- 6) Do not discharge pools to drainage systems unless water has been de-chlorinated.**
- 7) Do not tie-in house plumbing or garage/workshop drains, etc. into roadway or drainage systems.**
- 8) Keep trash out of roadways.**
- 9) Store volatile materials such as paint, gas, oil, etc. in proper places and make sure materials are not leaking. If leaks/spills are noticed please contact the Town.**
- 10) Report any instances of the above to Town Hall (848-1235).**

These are a few simple ways to help all of us comply with the required regulations and help keep the waters of Florida clean and usable for all of us. All items noted above apply to the Town itself as well as the residents and businesses within the Town

In addition to the above (which were included in an article in the Town's Newsletter) NPDES is an ongoing and permanent fixture of regulatory laws that the Town must comply with. The Town is considered an MS4 (which is an acronym for a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) under the NPDES program.

The program is enforced, within the Town, through the Code Enforcement division. The Countywide program includes the FDOT, Palm Beach County, 38 municipalities, and 6 special drainage districts. The group is overseen by a steering committee under the auspices of the Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District (NPBCID), the lead permittee of the group permit (one large permit issued to the group, with subsections for all the participating entities).

Further, there are other, MS4's within the Town. An example would be the drainage systems on 45th Street and Australian, which are under the jurisdiction of Palm Beach County.

Through inter-local agreements all the entities involved in the Countywide program are responsible for not only their system but for observing any infractions that might occur in another MS4. For example, if a Town resident was to observe someone pouring used oil into a catch basin on 45th Street, the Town should be notified at which time the Town would contact Palm Beach County and notify them of the situation. Palm Beach County would then take action to address the infraction through their code enforcement system, which can levy fines, require clean up at violator's expense, etc.

The program for individuals is not onerous and tends to be common sense items, but individuals sometimes do not think about some actions that can adversely affect the waters of the state. The drainage systems can be complicated and, if not familiar with how they ultimately work, many people may believe they are like sanitary sewer systems and that the rain water runoff is treated. It is not. Rainwater ultimately goes into the ocean and the ground water table, both of which can be dramatically affected by pollutants, as noted above. Even leaf and grass clippings are considered pollutants as they degrade and increase phosphorus and nitrogen in water. Increase in these chemicals lead to the expanded growth of exotic plant species, which can choke out canals, lower water parameters so fish and other animals cannot survive.

The link below will take you to the NPDES County Website, which also includes links to the EPA and the DEP.

A great deal of the information is highly technical, however many areas may be of interest, including being able to review the Town reports, the Steering Committee actions, etc.

<http://www.pbco-npdes.org/>