

# Stormwater and Your Lawn- Issue 2: Grass Clippings



When it rains, the water washes fertilizer and other pollutants from our lawns over our driveways, sidewalks, and roads, into our storm drains where it flows directly – and untreated – into our rivers, lakes, and streams.



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## Grass Clippings

When you mow your lawn, leave the clippings to decompose and feed your lawn, or compost them and make a natural fertilizer for your garden! You can also bag the clippings for yard waste curbside pickup. But whatever you do, don't leave them on the sidewalk or near a storm drain.

Why? When it rains, grass clippings, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and other pollutants are carried over our sidewalks, driveways, and roads into the nearest storm drain where they flow - untreated - directly into our nearest water body. Once there, grass clippings will decompose and release Phosphorus into the water, causing fish kills and algae blooms that are toxic to humans and wildlife alike.



Looking for some tips this spring for caring for your lawn and garden?

- When you mow leave the grass clippings where they fall. They will add nitrogen and other nutrients to your soil, reducing the need for fertilizer and keeping your lawn healthy!
- Add grass clippings to your compost. Once they decompose they can be used as a natural fertilizer in your garden.
- Mow often and mow high! Tall grass shades the soil, thereby conserving water and shading out weeds.
- Keep your blades sharp.