

Good Lawn and Landscaping Practices

City of Indian Harbour Beach

Grass clippings and other yard waste can be beneficial to yards and gardens when made into compost. However when they are improperly disposed of or allowed to enter local waterways, they can harm water quality.

SWEEEPING, BLOWING OR PLACING YARD WASTE ON TOP OF OR DOWN STORM DRAINS WHICH DIRECTLY DRAIN INTO STATE AND LOCAL WATERS, LIKE CANALS AND RIVERS IS ILLEGAL.

403.413 Florida Litter Law

These kinds of practices can lead to:

- Blocked storm drains and cause flooding.
- Lead to harmful algae blooms from excessive growth of nutrients like Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P).
- Smother spawning beds of fish and destroy habitat for other aquatic life.
- Suppress native aquatic plants that support a healthy ecosystem.
- Cause depletion of oxygen and provide an opportunity for non-native plants to grow in the place of native plants.
- Lead to sickness in animals and humans if the clippings or yard waste are treated with fertilizers or pesticides.
- Contain high amounts of nutrients and pet waste that lead to water pollution problems.

ONE PERSON'S YARD WASTE MAY NOT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, BUT WHEN THESE ACTIONS ARE MULTIPLIED BY EVERYONE, THEN IT IS A BIG DEAL AND CAN BE VERY HARMFUL TO OUR WATER QUALITY AND WATERWAYS THAT SUPPORT FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE IN OUR FRAGILE AND PRECIOUS INDIAN AND BANANA RIVER LAGOONS.

Helpful Tips in Disposing of Yard Waste

- Mow grass without a lawnmower bag and leave clippings to naturally decompose.
- Using a mulching mower is a good way to recycle grass clippings and leave debris.
- If grass clippings, leaves, soils, and fertilizer are left on the driveways, sidewalks, streets, or any other impervious surface, they should be swept or blown back onto the lawn, not to the street where they can enter the storm drains or drainage canals.
- Place yard waste in a curbside container to be picked up by Waste Management.
- Do not pile branches, leaves, or any other yard waste on top of storm drain inlets.
- Place grass, leaves, branches, and other yard waste in a compost bin.
- Drop off yard waste and other yard debris at the Brevard County landfill site.

If you have any other questions on disposing yard waste, please call the City of Indian Harbour Beach Public Works Department at 321-773-3181.



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