

## Use phosphorous-free fertilizer

Soils in Minnesota contain enough phosphorous for our lawns to be healthy. Using a fertilizer that contains phosphorous will cause problems because the phosphorous will run into the water.

*Just one pound of phosphorus in the water can cause 500 pounds of algae growth.*

Check the middle number located on the fertilizer bag. This is the number that indicates the amount of phosphorus (verify it indicates a zero; e.g.: 30-0-15).

## Use pesticides and herbicides ONLY as directed and ONLY if needed

Both pesticides and herbicides should be avoided if at all possible because they are detrimental to the environment. If they must be used, follow the label directions exactly and make sure to dispose of them properly.

### Storm Drain Stenciling

Storm drain stenciling is a fun and easy thing you, or a group can do to help get the word out about the importance of knowing that what goes down our storm drains directly affects water quality. If you are interested in storm drain stenciling, call the number listed on the back of this brochure to obtain a kit.



## Disposal Methods:

### It is *illegal* to dispose of yard and tree waste with your household garbage.

So what can you do to get rid of this waste?

Local haulers offer curbside pickup mid-April to mid-November. This is most cost effective when you produce more than 21 bags a year.

Local haulers also offer one time pickups for a small fee. Yard waste is conveniently picked up on the same day as your other waste is collected and the fee is simply added to your bill.

You may also bring your yard waste to a compost facility. Please be aware that there are associated fees. Locations are few and hours very widely.

Please make sure all yard waste is contained in compostable bags. Bags should be made of paper or plastic that meets ASTM 6400 requirements.

To find more information on location of compost sites and how to start your own visit: [www.lakevillemn.gov](http://www.lakevillemn.gov)

City Departments/Environmental Resources/Recycling/  
Dakota County's Green Guide

**For more information:  
City of Lakeville  
Environmental Resources Department  
20195 Holyoke Ave.  
Lakeville, MN 55044**

**Phone: (952) 985-4528**



## Lawn Care

How it affects  
water quality



Tips to keep our waters clean

*Lawn care practices can have a large impact on water quality. Proper techniques can reduce phosphorus loads, decrease nuisance algae growth, and promote water quality for the benefit of plants, animals, and you.*

*Stick to the following techniques, and your lawn will continue to look great, and it will no longer be harming near by wetlands, streams, or lakes.*

### **Keep clippings on lawn**

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn provides the equivalent of one application of fertilizer per year. You might as well use mother natures free resource rather than going to the store for fertilizer.

### **Sweep all grass clipping back onto your lawn every time you mow**

By removing lawn debris from paved surfaces, you will greatly reduce the amount of phosphorus on its way to wetlands, streams, and lakes.



## Tips to keep our waters clean

### **Keep a 20-foot buffer near water (create a winding path if a path is necessary)**

Leaving natural vegetation in this quantity will greatly reduce any chemicals and nutrients making their way to your waterbody by filtering out nutrients that often cause algae blooms and increased plant growth. An added bonus is that the tall vegetation will keep geese from congregating in your yard!

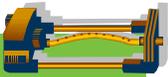


### **Plant native plants as buffer**

By planting native plants near your shoreline, you will increase habitat for wildlife, promote diversity in the surrounding landscape, and receive better filtration because native plants have such a large root mass.



### **Water lawns from 4 am to 6 am**



Watering at these times reduces evaporation and it minimizes the potential for diseases to harm your lawn.

Lakeville soils only require one inch of rain a week to maintain a healthy looking lawn. Watering mid-day does nothing for your lawn because it all evaporates before the grass can use it.

### **Wash your car on lawn**

Wash your car on your lawn using a no-phosphorous soap. This keeps soapy water out of the storm drain, and can double as a drink for your lawn! If that's not an option, take your car to a commercial car wash where water is treated before it re-enters local waterways.



### **Do not dump grass clippings, leaves, garbage, food waste, or chemicals into or near water**

Grass clippings are commonly placed near the waters edge, but this practice is a major source of phosphorus that causes algae blooms. Never place your grass clippings near the water. Garbage, chemicals, and hazardous waste can cause countless problems to your water ecosystem, so never dump these items in or near the water.

### **If you compost, make sure to keep your bin away from water**

Composting is a great way to reduce your garbage and promote a healthy environment, but if you keep your compost pile or bin too close to the water, it can leach phosphorous directly into the water.