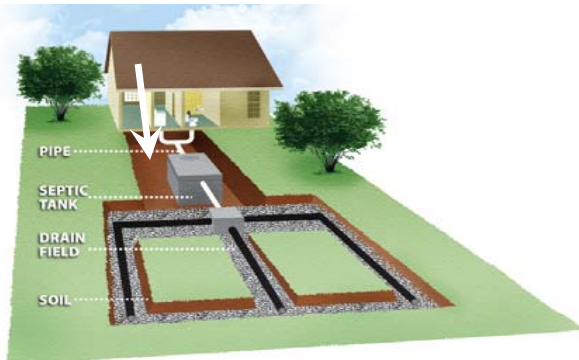


## SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE

Proper operation and maintenance of a septic system can save money, protect health, and prevent septic leaks into North Port's waterways and the Myakkahatchee Creek. The waterways and creek are our main sources of drinking water.

- ◆ **Get a Checkup** Inspect your septic tank at least every 2 or 3 years and pump out the sludge as recommended.
- ◆ **Think Before You Flush** Materials such as plastics, diapers and cigarette filters can clog septic systems and increase maintenance needs. Dispose these items in the trash.
- ◆ **Don't Compound the Problem** Using septic tank cleaning compounds can impair the tank's efficiency and may inhibit the system from functioning.
- ◆ **Garbage In, Garbage Out** Kitchen scraps and coffee grounds placed in your garbage disposal system add extra waste loading to the septic system. Put them in the trash or compost.



## Don't Pollute The Water We Drink!



**Cocoplum Waterway  
Primary Drinking Water Source  
North Port, Florida**

Prepared by:  
Department of Public Works  
(941) 240-8321  
[www.northportfl.gov](http://www.northportfl.gov)



**Southwest Florida  
Water Management District**

WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476



**City of North  
Port, Florida**



**Do You Know Where  
Your Drinking Water  
Comes From?**

**Don't Pollute It!**

## Care About Your Home.

### Care About Your Water.

*Everyone wants clean water. But the choices we make today can affect our water resources tomorrow.*

*You can help prevent pollutants from entering North Port's waterways and Myakkahatchee Creek, which are our primary drinking water sources.*

*Nurturing a beautiful lawn, properly disposing pet waste and maintaining your septic tank can help protect our environment.*

*When we all do our part, we can keep our drinking water crystal clean.*



Florida-Friendly Low Water Use  
Landscaping at Utilities Office  
North Port, Florida

**It's Your Water.  
Help Protect It.**

## Know Where It Flows

Did you know rainwater flows over your yard and into roadside swales that lead to 79 miles of waterways in North Port? The Cocoplum Waterway and Myakkahatchee Creek are our primary drinking water sources. Rain can wash garbage, oil and grease spills, fertilizers, pesticides and animal waste into our waterways.

**FERTILIZER USE** Too much fertilizer on your lawn will actually damage the grass. Excess fertilizer in our waterways increases algae and nuisance aquatic plant growth, which can clog our waterways and cause flooding.

◆ **Plant the Right Plant in the Right Place** Native plants adapted to Florida's conditions need little water or fertilizer. Ask a local landscape professional for recommendations.

◆ **When to Use Fertilizer** Since rain washes excess fertilizer into our waterways, you cannot use fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus on your lawn during the rainy season (June 1 to September 30).

◆ **What Fertilizer to Use** Use fertilizer that is low in phosphorus with at least 50% of the nitrogen content in a slow-release form.

◆ **Lawn Irrigation** Proper watering conserves water, reduces runoff, produces healthy roots and trains your lawn to be more drought-tolerant.



Myakkahatchee Creek  
Primary Drinking Water Source  
North Port, Florida

◆ **Keep Fertilizer Away from Waterways** Maintain at least a 10-foot unfertilized buffer area around creeks, waterways, ponds, and ditches. Don't apply fertilizer past the top of bank. This will help to prevent the fertilizer from directly entering the waterway.

**PET WASTE** The average waste matter from a dog contains 3 million particles of fecal bacteria. When it rains, the fecal bacteria can be washed into our waterways, which supply our drinking water.

◆ **Pick Up the Pet Waste** Use plastic baggies to pick up pet waste on your yard or when you walk your pet. It is not only the environmentally-friendly thing to do, but it is also the law to pick up your pet waste and dispose of it properly, such as into a trash bin.