



# Enviro Edge-water

City of Edgewater  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## Want FREE Water? Install a rain barrel!

Rain barrels are above ground water storage vessels. They capture rain runoff from a building roof using the gutter and downspout system. Rain barrels can go a long way in offsetting your water needs: including gardening, car washing, watering plants indoors and outdoors. During a typical rain event (1 inch in 24 hours) more than 700 gallons of water runs off the typical roof. When this rain runs off the roof onto impervious surfaces, it cannot soak into the ground. As this runoff crosses the surfaces it picks up sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants. The rainwater eventually enters a storm drain or nearby waterway. A rain barrel intercepts stormwater and puts it to good use as well as stopping the pollutants entering our waterways. You can make or purchase your rain barrel. A rain barrel can cost anywhere from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars. Before you make or purchase your rain barrel do a little research to decide where you will install your rain barrel, look closely to see where each down-



spout is directing your runoff. Place your rain barrel where it can collect rain that would otherwise become destructive stormwater runoff.

### BENEFITS:

1. Reduce water pollution in our waterways by reducing stormwater runoff.
2. Rainwater is naturally soft water with no additives to irritate plants.
3. Direct overflow water away from building foundations to more desired locations.
4. Save money on your water bill.

### BE SAFE WITH YOUR RAIN BARREL:

1. Your rain barrel should be made from a food-grade container.
2. Place your rain barrel on level ground.

3. DO NOT USE for drinking or for animals.
4. Make sure to monitor for overflow, to eliminate erosion problems.

Want to Build your own Rain Barrel then check these websites out.

[Http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/rainbarrel/make-a-rain-barrel.html](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/rainbarrel/make-a-rain-barrel.html)

[Http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/Hort/Pubs/Rainbarrel.shtml](http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/Hort/Pubs/Rainbarrel.shtml)

[Http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water/buildrainbarrel.htm](http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water/buildrainbarrel.htm)

### Volume 1, Issue 3 Spring & Summer 2009

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#### Did You Know?

- In most cases rainwater is better suited to irrigate plants rather than tap or well water, because it is not chlorinated, fluorinated or loaded with dissolved salts.
- Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago in Thailand, and throughout other areas of the world after that.



Recycling is a powerful tool in Solid Waste Management and the City of Edgewater would like to encourage each resident to recycle...  
*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*  
*At home, work, and school.*

"What we are living with is the result of human choices and it can be changed by making better, wiser choices."  
-- Robert Redford



## Ten Reason to Recycle

1. **GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY:** American companies rely on recycling programs to provide the raw materials they need to make new products.
2. **CREATES JOBS:** Recycling in the U.S. is a \$236 billion a year industry. More than 56,000 recycling and refuse enterprises employ 1.1 million workers nationwide.
3. **REDUCES WASTE:** The average American discards seven and a half pounds of garbage every day. Most of this garbage goes into landfills, where it's compacted and buried.
4. **GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:** Recycling requires far less energy, uses fewer natural resources, and keeps waste from piling up in landfills.
5. **PRESERVES LAND-FILL SPACE:** No one wants to live next door to a landfill. Recycling preserves existing landfill space.
6. **REDUCES WATER POLLUTION:** Making goods from recycled materials generates far less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.
7. **PROTECTS WILDLIFE:** Using recycled materials reduces the need to damage forests, wetlands, rivers and other places essential to wildlife.
8. **CREATES NEW DEMAND:** Recycling and buying recycled products creates demand for more recycled products, decreasing waste and helping our economy.
9. **PREVENTS GLOBAL WARMING:** In 2000, recycling of solid waste prevented the release of 32.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MMTCE, the unit of measure for greenhouse gases) into the air.
10. **YOU ARE SETTING A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR YOUR FAMILY!**

### Add a "Green" twist to your spring cleaning Recipes for Alternatives to Household Chemicals

- ⇒ Furniture Polish: For oil-finish surfaces, use almond or olive oil. Dust with damp cloth and wipe dry.
- ⇒ All Purpose Cleaner: 1 teaspoon of liquid soap, 1 teaspoon of borax, and 1/4 cup of vinegar in 1 quart of warm water.
- ⇒ Grease Remover: Baking soda paste.
- ⇒ Glass Cleaner: 2 Tablespoons of vinegar in 1 quart of water (Use newspaper for a streak free window without the lint.)
- ⇒ Stain Remover: Cornstarch paste.
- ⇒ **Continued on Page 6**



## Start your own Compost Pile!

Your compost pile can be in your backyard. The backyard compost pile will be for medium to large quantities of organic materials to be used in outdoor gardens, under shrubs and outdoor plants.

All composting requires three basic ingredients:

1. Browns: dead leaves, branches, twigs.
2. Greens: grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps and coffee grounds.
3. Water

Having the right amount of the above is the key to compost development; equal amounts of browns and greens alternating layers will create a great compost pile. There is no "right" way to compost. Here is a suggestion from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Backyard Composting:

1. Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile.
2. Before you add your brown and green materials, make sure larger pieces are

chopped/shredded.

3. Add a 3-inch layer of green materials and a little soil or finished compost.
4. Lightly mix the two layers above.
5. Top with a 3-inch layer of brown materials, adding water until moist.
6. Turn your compost pile every week or so with a pitchfork to distribute air and moisture. Move the dry materials from the edges into the middle of the pile. Continue this practice until the pile does not re-heat much after turning.
7. Your compost will be ready in one to four months, but let the pile sit for two weeks before using.

There are many environmental benefits to composting here are just a few:

- \*Compost has the ability to help regenerate poor soil.
- \*Compost has also been shown to suppress plant diseases and pest, reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers.

\*Compost helps cleanup (remediate) contaminated soil.

\*Compost has been shown to bind heavy metals and prevent them from migrating to water resources or being absorbed by plants.

\*Compost has the ability to prevent pollutants in Stormwater runoff from reaching surface water resources.

\*Composting has been shown to prevent erosion and silting on embankments parallel to creeks, lakes, and rivers.

\* Using compost offers economic benefits: reduces the need for water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Resources: EPA Websites

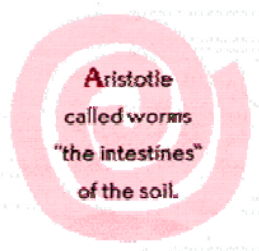
[Http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non\\_hw/composting/benefits.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non_hw/composting/benefits.htm)

[Http://www.epa.gov/compost/by\\_compost.htm](http://www.epa.gov/compost/by_compost.htm)



Composting is a natural way to recycle your lawn clippings and kitchen scraps, keeping these items from going into the landfill.





Worm composting would be a great summer project for kids of all ages! Have fun with it while helping the environment.



## Worm Composting (Vermiculture)

### How does worm composting differ from traditional composting?

Like traditional composting methods, worm composting is a way of recycling food and other organic material into a dark, earthy material called compost that can be used to enrich the soil. One great thing about worm composting is that it can be done indoors or outdoors.

### Steps to setting up a vermiculture system (worm composting).

The components to starting a vermiculture: the container, the bedding and the worms.

#### CONTAINER:

There is no right or wrong when it comes to the container you choose, traditionally containers are constructed of wood or plastic. Wood is more absorbent, while plastic containers offer indoor composters the assurance of a self-contained system. Okay the big question is how big does my container need to be, this will depend on how much organic waste you plan to recycle. Typically your container should allow one square foot of surface area for every pound of waste to be composted. Your container will need ventilation. Easily accomplished by drilling holes in the bottom of the container. The number of holes will depend on size of container, plastic containers usually require a few more holes than your wood containers. The key is that your compost stay moist, but not overly damp. Don't forget you will need a

runoff tray if composting indoors. Your container will require a lid, for outdoors it should be a solid lid to keep animals out, indoors your lid can be constructed of dark plastic, burlap or the original lid loosely fitted on the container, you want to make sure you have proper ventilation.

#### BEDDING:

The bedding will provide a home for your worms, using a variety of these items will provide the best nutrients for your worms, sawdust, cardboard, shredded newspaper, chopped straw, or dead plant material. Along with a few handfuls of sand or soil are also imperative to help with essential digestion process that occurs in your worms. Your bedding should fill your container about 3/4 of the way. Add enough water to make your bedding feel like a damp sponge, then lift or fluff your material to create pockets of air.

#### THE WORMS:

The most popular worm to use in your worm composter is the "red wiggler", these can be purchased at most bait shops. How many worms, you will need 2 pounds of worms for every pound of waste you plan to compost. Worms will multiply quickly so if you don't have enough just feed them less and wait for more worms.

#### FEEDING YOUR WORMS:

You can include the scraps of most food including peels of fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags, and crushed egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oily food, dairy products and grains. When placing them in your container make sure to bury them.

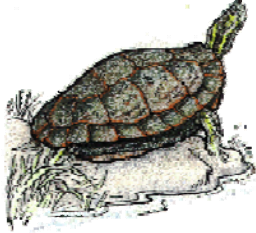
#### MAINTENANCE:

Beyond making sure that you have the proper food to worm ratio, very little maintenance is required. After a period of 8 to 10 weeks has passed, you will begin to notice that the original bedding has disappeared. You will find a rich and earthy layer of worm castings in its place, which is the bulk of your compost.

#### USING YOUR COMPOST:

When your compost is ready, be careful not to disturb the red wigglers or their egg-shaped cocoons, which house the baby worms. The easiest way to accomplish this is to remove the finished compost one half at a time. Move your worms to one side of your container, remove your compost, insert new bedding, and gently replace the worms. Repeat the other side. Once removed use your compost to enrich the soil of your plants indoors and outdoors.

Worm composting is a great way to reuse your food scraps and promote further plant growth with your end product, that rich black compost!



*Be part of the  
SOLUTION not the  
POLLUTION!*

## What is Florida Friendly?

It's that time of year when we will be planting new flowers and plants. We hear we should use Florida Friendly plants but do we realize what it means. In plain language, Florida Friendly describes practice, materials, or actions that help to preserve Florida's natural resources and protect the environment. All are based on the nine principles: Right Plant, Right Place; Water Efficiently; Fertilize Appropriately; Mulch; Attract Wildlife; Manage Yard Pests Responsibly; Recycle Yard Waste; Reduce Stormwater Runoff, and Protect the Waterfront. These practices promote the prevention of nonpoint source pollution of surface and ground waters, water conservation, and species diversity within the Florida landscape.

## Enviro Edge-water

# What is Pointless Personal Pollution?

The cause of water pollution is often blamed on "point sources," such as industrial or sewage treatment facilities. Discharges from these sources flow through pipes and into our water bodies. This pollution source can be readily identified and treated. Pointless Personal Pollution, also known as non-point source pollution, commonly referred to as stormwater runoff, non-point source pollution is water pollution that is difficult to identify and treat. This is because many of our daily activities can cause this type of pollution. This type of pollution can travel by different avenues into the ground and surface waters. Take a moment and look around your home and yard. Most will find sources of Pointless Personal Pollution. Any or all of these pollutants could land in the City's waters.

### Some Examples of Pollutants include:

- ⇒ Oil and grease from automobiles or lawn equipment.
- ⇒ Pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers.
- ⇒ Litter, yard clippings, pet waste.
- ⇒ Sand and dirt from erosion.

### Ways Pointless Personal Pollution Impact Our Waters:

Pointless Personal Pollution come in many forms that contaminate our waters in all different ways. Here are a few examples:

- ⇒ Nutrients from fertilizers, septic tanks and animal waste cause excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds.
- ⇒ Garbage and litter reduce the oxygen in the water which can kill the aquatic life.

### Ways You Can Reduce Your Pointless Personal Pollution:

- ⇒ Shop for products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorus or water soluble, these products readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground waters.
- ⇒ Compost leaves, grass and clippings then use this as mulch to supplement fertilizers. When using compost you are returning nutrients back into the soil requiring less fertilizer to be used.
- ⇒ Do not apply lawn chemicals if rain is in the forecast. Store your products properly by keeping toxic

products in original containers and clearly marked in a safe and proper storage area. By proper storage you eliminate the possibility of spillage along with eliminating possible accidents.

- ⇒ Having your car regularly serviced and maintained will help prevent any leakage of fluids. Prevent the leaks while preventing the motor oil, anti-freeze, etc. from being washed into waters.

Remember that wherever you live, your daily activities could end up polluting Florida's waters. Pollutants from our homes and businesses are major contributors of pollution of our waters. This pollution is washed into our waters by rain or irrigation water and is known as Pointless Personal Pollution. WE are the cause of this type of pollution and WE can stop it!

Information for this article was provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



## Add a “Green” twist to your spring cleaning Recipes for Alternatives to Household Chemicals (Con’t)

- ⇒ Bleach: Use Borax.
- ⇒ Carpet Cleaner: 1 cup of borax and 2 cups of cornmeal or baking soda. Sprinkle this mixture on your stain and let stand for one hour. Vacuum up.
- ⇒ After Bathing Dog: Use baking soda in his rinse water to keep him smelling nice.
- ⇒ Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Vinegar and water will remove most lime scale. Scrubbing with baking soda will remove the rest.
- ⇒ Drain Cleaner: Mix 1 cup of baking soda with 1 cup salt and 1/4 cup of cream of tartar. Pour 1/4 of this mixture into the drain each week.
- ⇒ Clogged Drain: Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda and follow with 1/2 cup of vinegar and seal the drain. Wait for the bubbling to stop. Now flush with boiling water. IF it’s a bathroom clog and likely hair, tie a fishhook onto string, and fish for the clog! Last resort: Use a plumber’s snake—carefully.
- ⇒ Tile and Wall Cleaner: Put 1/4 cup of baking soda in a small bowl and add just 2 to 3 Tablespoons of liquid soap. Scoop this mixture up to scrub tiles. Rinse with cool water.
- ⇒ White Water Spots on Wood: Rub with cigarette ashes to remove.
- ⇒ Rust Stains on Porcelain: Mix cream of tartar with hydrogen peroxide to make a paste and scrub gently. Let paste dry, then rinse.

- ⇒ Showerhead Clogged: Take apart and soak in vinegar. Use a paper clip to poke out stubborn areas. Rinse.
- ⇒ Rejuvenate the Finish of Your Table: Spread a thin coat of petroleum jelly, leave overnight, and wipe off.
- ⇒ Fabric Softener: 1 cup of vinegar in the rinse cycle.
- ⇒ Bleach: Use Borax.
- ⇒ Pet Odor in Carpet: Sprinkle fresh coffee grounds over carpet. Vacuum up

### PEST CONTROL:

- ⇒ Roaches: Add beer, banana and a few drops of anise extract to a jam jar. Cover the jar with masking tape so they can climb up. Smear petroleum jelly around the inside top of the jar so they can’t escape.
- ⇒ Silverfish: Put tape up a straight sided glass and add 1/4 cup of flour. Silverfish climb up, go in and can’t get out.
- ⇒ Mosquitoes: Put a few drops of dish detergent in puddles.
- ⇒ Yellow Jackets: AT NIGHT pour hot soapy water in their hole.
- ⇒ Wasps: Cut a small hole in a margarine tub’s lid and add sugar water. Wasps get in but can’t get out.
- ⇒ Ant Barriers: Chili powder, bone meal or powdered charcoal.

- ⇒ Carpenter Ant Ridder: on an index card mix boric acid and mint/apple jelly and place near nest—CAUTION—will kill pets, so watch and then throw away!

### GARDEN TIPS:

- ⇒ Ant Barriers: Chili powder, bone meal or powdered charcoal.
- ⇒ Ant hills: Sprinkle grits over the mound.
- ⇒ Any bugs in plants: Put a clove of garlic in your houseplants.
- ⇒ Raccoon Away: Ammonia rags or just sprinkle over garbage.
- ⇒ Fertilizer Saver: Add flour to your fertilizer to make sure you have gotten all areas and don’t over fertilize!

### MISCELLANEOUS TIPS:

- ⇒ Windshield: Sprinkle baking soda on a wet rag and wipe across your windshield to make the raindrops bead up and slide off.
- ⇒ Paint: Stir cat litter into unwanted latex paint and when it’s dry throw it away. Or take to the Landfill’s paint exchange.
- ⇒ Brush baking powder onto split cane chairs that you have wiped with a warm damp cloth. Once this dries, brush it off.

Information from Stormwater Management Authority, Inc.