

Chisago Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
38814 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
North Branch, MN 55056  
651/674-2333



Chisago County  
Environmental Services  
313 North Main Street Room 243  
Center City, MN 55012  
651/213-8383

## Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care Tips

- Grass clippings and fallen leaves contain phosphorus, which is the nutrient that causes algae blooms in lakes and turns them green.
- One bushel of grass clippings can contain 0.1 lbs of phosphorus which is enough phosphorus to produce 30 to 50 pounds of algae growth in a nearby lake, river, or waterbody.
- When mowing, direct grass clippings away from the street, driveway, sidewalk, or other paved areas. These paved surfaces can transport grass clippings, leaves, and dirt into the storm sewer which goes directly to nearby lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Sweep up the grass clippings off hard surfaces and return them to the lawn or compost the clippings.
- By returning clippings to the lawn you can save on fertilizer – one year worth of clippings equals one application of fertilizer.
- A new Minnesota state law restricts the use of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus. When buying fertilizer for your lawn look at the string of numbers and make sure that the middle number is zero.

Look for zero phosphorus fertilizer!

23-0-10

It's the Law!

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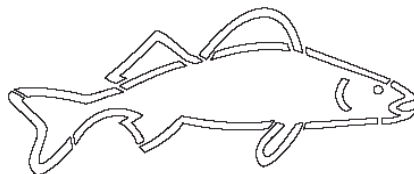
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# Storm Drain Stenciling

## Looking for a **FUN** group activity to help the environment and water quality?

- Storm Drain Stenciling Kits are available from the Chisago County Environmental Services Office or the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District. This is a great way for community members and groups to participate in an earth friendly activity. Groups could include (but are not limited to): scout troops, church groups, lake associations, 4-H, and homeowners associations.
- A storm drain stencil is designed to educate people that nothing should be dumped in the storm drains on streets. Everything needed for stenciling will be provided.
- **Do not dump:** paint, motor oil, antifreeze, pet waste, lawn clippings, detergent, cigarette butts, litter, or any other products into the storm sewer.
- Water entering the storm sewer does not get treated, it does not go to the local wastewater treatment facility, water goes directly to nearby lakes, wetlands, streams, or rivers. This is the same water you use for fishing, boating, or swimming.
- The painted stencil will remind people of the importance of water quality in their neighborhood. It's a good thing to have a continual reminder that dumping household items or litter in the storm drains is hazardous to our water supply.
- Please contact Casey Ambers at the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, at 651/674-2333, or Jerry Spetzman at the Chisago County Environmental Services Office, at 651/213-8383 for more information, to learn more, or to borrow a kit today!

DUMP NO WASTE



DRAINS TO FRESH WATER