



SANIBEL COMMUNITIES for CLEAN WATER

Water Quality Protection Checklist for Homeowners

Stormwater runoff from urban landscapes is a major source of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) contributing to algae blooms and water quality impairments in Florida. Unfortunately, Sanibel is not immune to this problem. There is no shortage of excess nutrients in Sanibel's waters, and findings from Sanibel's Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (2017) showed a large majority of waterbodies (lakes, stormwater ponds, swales, etc.) located in private communities and on public lands did not meet the State of Florida's water quality standards for nutrients. Poor water quality not only impacts wildlife habitat and the quality of life for island residents, but it also negatively impacts property values.

For the past several years, water quality has been the City of Sanibel's top priority, and the City has implemented a number of projects and programs to improve water quality on Sanibel. However, there is always more that can be done, and it can start in your own backyard! In a time when water quality is a chief concern, it is important for each of us to examine our role in protecting Sanibel's waters. The undertakings of individual homeowners can collectively add up to island-wide water quality improvements.

Below is a list of items for you to review to ensure all necessary steps are being taken to protect water quality on Sanibel and in your backyard. If you utilize the services of a contractor, please have them review and sign this document as a pledge to you and the community of Sanibel to protect water quality through best management practices.

Fertilizer Application

- Only fertilizer mixtures containing 20% nitrogen content or less are being applied to the landscape.
- At least 50% or more of the nitrogen content is in a slow-release form.
- Only fertilizer mixtures containing 2% phosphorus content or less are being applied to the landscape.

- No more than six application of fertilizer per year.
- One pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet or less is being applied to the landscape during a single application.
- Four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet or less is being applied to landscape in a year.
- No fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus are applied with 25ft of any waterbody: lakes, ponds, canals, wetlands, and the Sanibel Slough, or over catch basins and stormwater conveyances.
- No fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus are applied to stormwater conveyance systems including retention areas and drainage swales.
- Reuse water usage is being considered when calculating application rates. Reuse nutrient calculator available here: <https://www.sanibelcleanwater.org/solutions/>
- Any fertilizer spilled on impervious surfaces will be cleaned up.

Landscaping Practices

- Vegetative debris is disposed of properly in an upland location.
- Vegetation debris such as leaves and grass clippings are not being blown or raked into waterbodies, catch basins, or stormwater conveyances.
- Grass is being mowed to the proper height to increase turf density and promote root health.
- Mower blade is kept sharp to limit damage to turf blades.

Irrigation Practices

- Irrigation heads are positioned so they do not directly spray into a waterbody.
- Irrigation application rates do not exceed the soil's ability to absorb and retain water.
- Systems are inspected regularly to ensure proper function.

By signing this document, I pledge to protect Sanibel's water quality.

Homeowner Signature

Contractor Signature