

# How Can YOU Help Keep Our Waterways Clean?

- Minimize or eliminate fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use—or switch to organic varieties that are not harmful
- Plant native plants – they are naturally adapted to our climate and don't require a lot of water and fertilizer
- Avoid overwatering your lawn
- Use mulch instead of herbicides to help control weeds
- Sweep up debris – don't hose down your driveway
- Don't fertilize near waterways or during the summer rainy season
- Have septic systems inspected and pumped out every 3 years
- Routinely check your car for leaks and dispose of engine fluids properly
- When washing your car at home, use detergents sparingly or bring your vehicle to a commercial car wash
- Pick up trash, pet waste and litter around your yard and home

# Other Ways to Protect Our Waterways



Become a Member



Attend an Event



Volunteer

## About Miami Waterkeeper



MIAMI WATERKEEPER®

Miami Waterkeeper defends, protects, and preserves Biscayne Bay and surrounding waters through citizen involvement and community action. MWK works to ensure swimmable, drinkable, fishable water in South Florida.

## Contact Us

[www.miamiwaterkeeper.org](http://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org)

[hello@miamiwaterkeeper.org](mailto:hello@miamiwaterkeeper.org)

(305) 905-0856

## Follow Us on Social Media

 [/miamiwaterkeeper](https://www.facebook.com/miamiwaterkeeper)

 [@miamiwaterkeeper](https://www.instagram.com/miamiwaterkeeper)

 [@MiamiWaterkpr](https://twitter.com/MiamiWaterkpr)



Produced with support from the NOAA Habitat Focus Area program

CORAL GABLES®  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



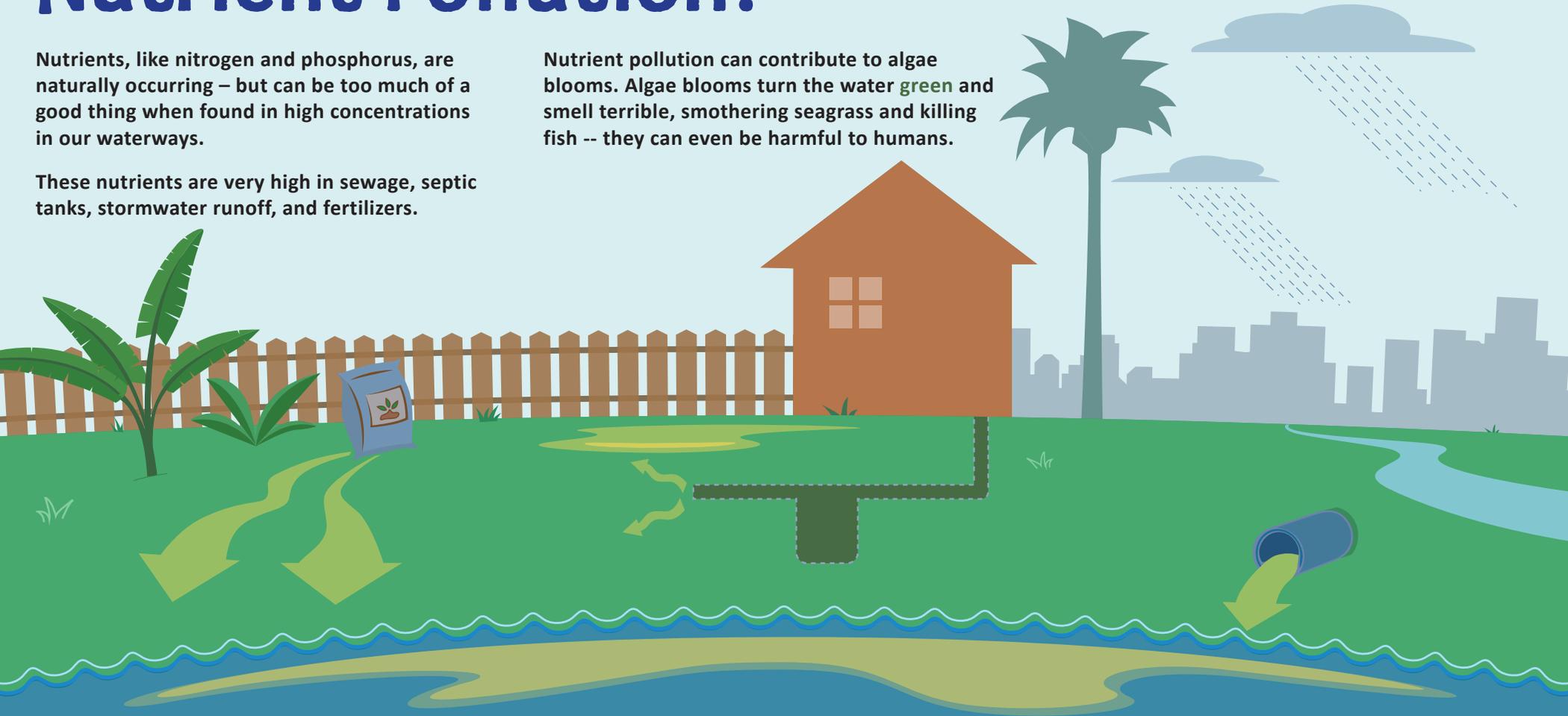
A CLEAN BAY  
BEGINS  
IN YOUR  
BACKYARD

# What is Nutrient Pollution?

Nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, are naturally occurring – but can be too much of a good thing when found in high concentrations in our waterways.

These nutrients are very high in sewage, septic tanks, stormwater runoff, and fertilizers.

Nutrient pollution can contribute to algae blooms. Algae blooms turn the water green and smell terrible, smothering seagrass and killing fish -- they can even be harmful to humans.



## Fertilizer

Fertilizer is often over-used in residential landscaping.

Biscayne Bay and our canals are extremely sensitive to excess nutrients, so we have to be sure to keep fertilizer out of the water to avoid algae blooms.

## Septic Tank Pollution

When not properly cared for, septic tanks can leak or flood – creating a land-based source of pollution that drains into our waterways.

This pollution can also contaminate the aquifer, our drinking water stored underground. Always maintain your septic tank and have it regularly inspected.

## Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater Runoff is any type of water that doesn't soak into the ground, but instead “runs off” down a drain or grate and into a waterway. Sometimes this water flows over polluted areas such as parking lots, roads, industrial sites, or yards, bringing contamination into waterways.