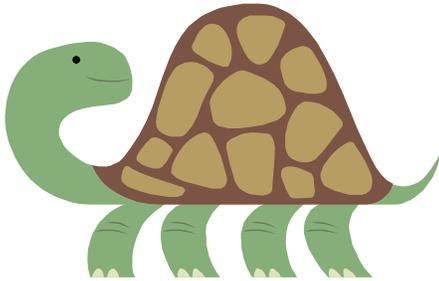


Summer Season Dos and Don'ts

Pools

As the swimming pool season approaches, Del City officials are reminding residents it is illegal to discharge chlorinated pool water down a neighborhood storm drain. Pool water should be drained into a sanitary sewer line or de-chlorinated before it is released into a storm drain. Chlorinated water keeps your pool clean by killing off harmful bacteria that are unhealthy to you. In a similar manner, the chlorine kills off organisms in the streams. However, we need to keep these organisms healthy because they are part of the food chain for fish and other aquatic animals.



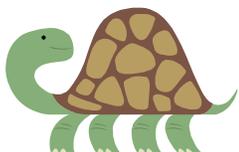
Watch closely for pools that are not in service. Pools holding water without the filtering system operating are perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Well before the water turns color mosquito larva begin to grow. Soon after this, the adult mosquitoes leave the water and begin to fly. It is much easier to control mosquitoes in the larva stage than when they are airborne. When draining these pools the only place to pump the water is the sanitary sewer to keep the larva from finding another water breeding ground. Code enforcement can help enforce this aspect of health safety if a non-functioning pool is reported to them.

Grass Clippings

Grass clippings also damage the fragile aquatic life that resides in creeks. It is illegal to deposit grass clippings in a creek, in a concrete channel leading to a creek or allow the clippings to be washed into a storm sewer that is connected to a creek. All storm sewers in Del City are connected to a natural creek. The grass clippings cause several problems to aquatic life and the drainage system that carries the clippings. First, the clippings clog the pipes and cause localized flooding. They are also considered suspended solids and when carried along with the storm water they ultimately degrade the quality of the water in the creek. Second when the clippings arrive at the creek they begin to decompose and again degrade the quality of the water in the creek. Grass clippings also carry along herbicides and pesticides as well as oils and grease that degrade the condition of the water.

Trash

Trash is the biggest offender to aquatic life. Plastic bottles, cigarette butts, and Styrofoam products do not decompose for many years and when they reach a creek they will be there for a long time. The disposal of trash through careless littering along city streets is collected by water runoff and is carried to creeks which are most likely someone's drinking water.



Terry the Turtle says
**"Help keep my home
clean. Please don't
litter!"**

For more information about storm drain contamination or to report a violation, call 671-2874.