

# TOWN OF BAY HARBOR ISLANDS

## Citizen's Environmental Manual



Inside you will find information on:

- Garbage & Recycling Collection
- Safe Lawn Maintenance
- Safe Pool Maintenance
- Water Restrictions
- Pesticides
- Mold Prevention



## Introduction

We live in a fragile ecosystem environment that we can protect. Water and air quality are essential to maintaining good health. In today's world, many of us are concerned about the increasing challenges to exposures in our environment and the associated health risks. Yet, there are so many ways that we can help to make our environment safer.

### Think Globally, Act Locally

This environmental manual is being provided to the citizens of Bay Harbor Islands to bring information that can assist each one of us in our community in making the wisest and healthiest choices for ourselves, our families, our community, and our planet.

We will, from time to time, add additional information to this manual that will be helpful to you and our community. To keep you informed of additional information to help the environment we live in, we will be publishing helpful hints on environmental issues in the Town's newsletter, *NewsWaves*. Please remove these articles from the newsletter and store them in the back of the manual for ready reference. Let's make Bay Harbor Islands the leader in making South Florida a better place to live.

Environmental Impact Committee

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## GARBAGE & TRASH

### GARBAGE & TRASH PICK-UP DAYS

Condos & Apts (East Island):

MON/WED/FRI

Homes (West Island):

TUES/THUR/SAT

### RECYCLING PICK-UP DAYS

Condos & Apts (East Island):

MON/THUR

Homes (West Island):

TUES/FRI

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## RECYCLING

### HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES, INK CARTRIDGES, CELL PHONES

Instead of throwing away batteries and ink cartridges with your regular garbage, please bring them to Town Hall and they will be properly recycled. Cell phones will be donated to Women in Distress.

### ELECTRONICS

Electronic equipment may be recycled at the Town's environmental event held at the annual picnic or dropped off at one of the County's drop-off locations. Miami-Dade County residents can drop off used electronic equipment for recycling at the Department's Permanent Home Chemical Collection Centers and at select Trash and Recycling Center locations. The Home Chemical Collection Centers are open every Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Trash and Recycling Centers are open daily, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Bay Harbor's nearest location is at 140 NW 160 Street, Miami, FL 33169.

Electronics that may be recycled include:

- Computer monitors and televisions
- Personal computers, keyboards, hard drives and printers
- VCRs, audio and video equipment
- Communication equipment such as cellular telephones and hand held radios

### FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULB DISPOSAL

More residents are purchasing compact fluorescent light bulbs for use in their homes. These bulbs are more energy efficient and last longer than standard incandescent bulbs. When it's time to dispose of them, make sure that you handle them properly. Fluorescents contain a small amount of mercury and cannot be thrown out with the regular trash.

Some local retailers will accept **Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)**, be sure to contact the store for more details and program specifics before delivering bulbs. Miami-Dade County residents can bring bulbs to one of the Home Chemical Collection Centers. **Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)** and traditional long-tube fluorescent lights are accepted.

The Centers are located in West Dade at 8831 NW 58 Street, and in South Dade at 23707 SW 97 Avenue, Gate-B. Normal hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## BULK WASTE PICK-UP

Thursday is the ONLY day large items are picked-up from the curbside.  
(NO CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS)

Household garbage includes plastic or paper bags or cardboard boxes and unwanted small household items and is collected from the side of the building. Garbage should be bagged and placed inside your 95 gallon container. Trash, unless in these containers, will not be picked up. Should your container become damaged or need to be replaced, please call Town Hall. The container must not be overfilled and the lids should be kept closed. If your container has been damaged or needs to be replaced, contact Town Hall.

Garden trash created by the property owner or occupant must be containerized or bundled and placed at the curb no earlier than Wednesday. If a landscape service or gardener takes care of your lawn, they are responsible for the removal and disposal of the garden trash outside of the Town.

Bulk Waste consists of materials including yard clippings and palm fronds that are too large to fit into the wheeled garbage containers; tree limbs larger than 3" in diameter and not exceeding 4' in length, items too large to be containerized, boxes, furniture, and appliances. Bulk Waste is material that is readily handled by mechanical equipment. Generally this is a large truck with a mechanical arm that picks up the material and places it into the truck.

Bulk waste will be collected on Thursday and is to be placed at the curb no earlier than Wednesday in order to avoid a code violation and possible fine. Place at the curb, away from fire hydrants and overhead wires. Construction materials, such as tile, bathroom fixtures, cement bags/buckets, etc. will not be picked up by the Town and removal of these items is the responsibility of the contractor. Placement of these items at the curbside for pick-up is a code violation and will result in the issuance of a fine. Please do not place materials at the curb after the truck has cleaned the area.

### SPECIAL PICK-UP (WHITE GOODS)

Disposal of large appliances/white goods are to be scheduled by calling Town Hall at 305-866-6241. White goods include items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers, and televisions.



<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
Tree Limbs	Hazardous Waste
Furniture	Automotive Parts
Mattresses	Construction Debris
Large Palm Fronds	Glass
Yard Clippings	Mirrors
Large Boxes	Non Latex Paint

## SAFE LAWN MAINTENANCE

Since our yards are actually the greatest source of contamination of the groundwater, which is the main source of drinking water in South Florida, it's important to know and follow safe lawn maintenance guidelines which will contribute to your yard being eco-friendly, beautiful, functional and easy to maintain.

- When **mowing your grass**, keep the height of the turf grass at least 2-3 inches high in order to promote healthier roots for a greener, pest resistant and drought resistant lawn.
- In **choosing the right plants** for your lawn, use xeriscape or drought tolerant native plants that match the existing condition of your lawn for soil, moisture and sunlight and will be able to survive with existing water shortage restrictions. Trees and shrubs, which are usually easier to maintain than grass, should be planted to shade the west, east and south sides of your home to reduce air conditioning costs.
- In **caring for your yard**, the use of mulch, applied 2-3 inches deep around plants and out to drip lines of trees, helps retain moisture, reduce weeds, and improve your soil. The most environmentally friendly method is to recycle tree cuttings and other non-pest organic debris from your yard such as mulch. The best kind of mulch is pine bark, which comes in big enough pieces to keep the weeds down and allow water to pass through it.
- Residents need to be aware of permanent landscape irrigation restrictions that prohibit watering between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Since phosphorus can leach out of plant material on hard surfaces, **clean up plant waste** promptly; prevent runoff by also **cleaning up any fertilizer or other chemicals** on hard surfaces.
- **Don't allow clippings and leaves** to blow or be raked into roads, ditches or storm water drains where they can easily get into a waterway.
- **Don't over apply organic products**, especially those made from composted animal manures, which are usually relatively high in phosphorus.
- Even if you have enough phosphorus and return clippings to the soil, grass still needs some **nitrogen** to form dense turf to prevent runoff. Fall and late Spring are the best times to apply nitrogen.

### RESOURCES

--[www.linkroll.com/lawn-care-advice](http://www.linkroll.com/lawn-care-advice)  
--[www.childsplayorganiclawns.com](http://www.childsplayorganiclawns.com)  
--[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)  
--[www.miami-dade.gov/derm/environment.asp](http://www.miami-dade.gov/derm/environment.asp)  
--[www.miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu)

## POLLUTION IN OUR SURROUNDING WATERS

There are approximately fifty-one (51) storm drains in the Town's streets. Millions of gallons of water are carried each year into our surface waters by storm drains. Sadly, many people mistake these drains for dump sites. Not only is dumping dangerous, it is a violation of the Miami-Dade County Code, and could lead to a fine. To report illegal dumping, call the Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Hotline at 305-372-6955.

### What Can You Do?

#### Shop Wisely

- Buy products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorous, or water-soluble. These products readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground waters.
- Don't overuse lawn chemicals; use them sparingly and away from open waters and storm drains.

#### Store Products Carefully

- Keep toxic products in original containers, closed and clearly marked, since spillage can easily occur.

#### Keep Irrigation Water On the Lawn

- Divert irrigation heads away from paved areas.

#### Compost Grass and Shrub Clippings

- Use mulch for fertilizer and do not blow clippings and leaves into the streets and storm drains.
- Do bag your yard waste for pickup.

#### Don't Dump Any Chemicals Into The Streets And Storm Drains

- This includes oil, gas, grease, paint, soap, pesticide, fertilizer, anti-freeze, cleaners, bleach, etc.
- Do dispose of hazardous wastes properly.
- Do wash your vehicle on the lawn and let the nutrient-rich soapy water fertilize your grass.

## WATER LEAKS



*Did you know the most common cause of high water bills are leaky faucets and toilets? Take a quick survey of your home to ensure you are not wasting water while your dollars are going down the drain. If you suspect you may have a water leak, contact the Town's Water Department at 305-866-6241.*

## PEST CONTROL IN YOUR HOME

All creatures have the same four requirements for survival: food, water, shelter, and warmth. Most structure invading pests are controlled when you simply control water (moisture for drinking and the relative humidity) because water is their most critical survival factor. So properly ventilate, install and maintain dehumidifiers, fans and/or air conditioners, and quickly correct/repair all moisture problems.

**Inspection:** The second best control you can use is to conduct a proper and thorough inspection - 90% of your pest problem will be in 10% of your building or lawn. If you don't see anything during the day, conduct a nighttime search and destroy mission using a red (or black) light. You must look everywhere.

**Decrease Moisture:** Properly install and maintain vents, vapor barriers, fans, air conditioners, and/or dehumidifiers. Moisture is the major destructive factor to homes and the major key to pest control elimination. Control moisture and you control pests and damage to your building.

**Prevention:** Seal cracks - the first defense is making sure pests don't get into your home. Crawling pests enter through cracks in or around the foundation or siding, or doors and windows, while flying insects usually come in through open doors and windows. An annual inspection of the foundation and siding is a good idea — caulk any cracks you may find. Be particularly careful to seal around exterior plumbing and electrical outlets. Make sure that door thresholds have good weather stripping under them and that the door and windows seal well when shut. Check that screens on windows, crawl space vents, and attic vents are intact and sealed around the edges. Remember 80% - 90% of all insect infestations migrate from the outside in to your structure. Only five (5) types of pests are generally carried inside buildings to create pest infestations; they are German cockroaches, fleas, stored product pests, mice, and Pharaoh ants; so inspect for them.

Manage the garbage by keeping garbage in sturdy, tightly covered containers and wash them out regularly. This prevents flies from breeding and reduces the attraction for ants and other insects. Remove tightly sealed plastic bags of kitchen food garbage daily and use a covered trash can. Avoid letting old clothes, newspapers, paper bags, cardboard, empty cans, and other trash accumulate in storage rooms, garages, etc., as these provide breeding sites for many household pests.

## SAFE POOL & SPA MAINTENANCE

A swim in the pool can be a healthy and fun activity. However, without the proper precautions, (safety and cleanliness), pools can spread germs that can possibly make swimmers sick. It is important for swimmers to know that what they see, feel, smell, and hear can help them recognize the difference between a healthy pool and a risky one.

- Continued on next page

### **SAFE POOL & SPA MAINTENANCE CONTINUED**

- Ionization systems in conjunction with certain types of chlorines and bromines are suggested because fewer chemicals would be used.
- An ozonic system works very well in a spa and can also work in a pool. This allows ozone to act as the primary oxidizer and disinfectant. Ozone destroys many organic compounds and micro-organisms and results in the reduction of chlorine. The reduction of chlorine usage will minimize the amount of chlorine off-gas that causes corrosion in swimming pool environments and gases into the atmosphere.
- Another important factor for swimmer comfort is the pH of the water. A swimmer's body has a pH of 7.2-7.8. The pool water should be kept in that range as well.
- Save on free heat from the sun and fight global warming. Consider solar pool heating units or solar pool covers and treat yourself to year round swimming or soaking in a spa.

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Many of the products commonly found in and around your home may be harmful to your health, your family's health, your pet's health, and our ecosystem. Products like oil-based paints, cleaners, oils, solvents, adhesives, pesticides, and pool chemicals are actually as hazardous as industrial chemicals. These products may contain solvents, petroleum products, heavy metals or other toxic chemicals. When these products are disposed of improperly, they can pollute our drinking water and are harmful to our health. Proper use, storage and disposal of these hazardous household products, can reduce potential health risks

- Keep products in a locked, secure area out of reach of children and pets
- Store products in their original containers, clearly label and date any alternative containers
- Keep containers tightly sealed, dry and stored away from any food, water or heat
- Keep products in a well-ventilated area and away from sources of ignition
- Store batteries and flammable chemicals in an area shaded from direct sunlight

Hazardous waste may not be placed in the Town's collection containers. Miami-Dade County's permanent Home Chemical Collection Centers accept oil-based paints, pesticides, solvents, pool chemicals, unbroken fluorescent light bulbs (including the older, long-tube fluorescents, modern compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and other fluorescent types) and other household items. The centers also accept latex paints that are still in liquid form. The Centers are located in West Dade at 8831 NW 58 Street, and in South Dade at 23707 SW 97 Ave, Gate-B, Wed. through Sun., from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

The South Florida Water Management District has placed restrictions on water use in Miami-Dade County. Watering is not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Hand-watering with one hose fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle is allowed for ten (10) minutes per day for landscape stress relief and to prevent plant die-off.

Residents and businesses with an ODD-numbered street address:

- Lawn watering is permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and/or from 4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Residents and businesses with an EVEN-numbered street address, no street address, or who water both even and odd addresses within the same zones, including multi-family units:

- Lawn watering is permitted on Thursdays and Sundays from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and/or from 4:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Some exceptions include:

- Restrictions don't apply for car and boat washing, pressure cleaning of paved surfaces, decorative fountains and water-based recreation (swimming pools).
- Low-volume irrigation, including the use of drop and micro jet systems that apply water directly to plant root zones, is not restricted but is encouraged to be reduced.
- New landscaping can be watered during the corresponding hours listed above every day, except Fridays, for the first ninety (90) days it is installed. Save the receipt with the date of purchase.

Violations are enforced by the Town's Code Compliance Department. Violations may be reported by calling 305-933-1786. **The first violation is a \$75 fine.**

## PESTICIDES

Pests are plants and/or animals found someplace that you don't want them. They may simply be annoying, carriers of diseases, or even damage property. When you spot or suspect a pest is around, before you grab the nearest can of bug-killer, try the following methods.

- Use biologically-based pesticides, such as pheromones and microbial pesticides. They are becoming increasingly popular and often are safer than traditional chemical pesticides.
- Do not let children or pets play in areas where pesticides have been sprayed.
- Avoid spraying insects in mid air as residue falls on you and your surroundings.
- Wash hands after spraying.
- Use safer household options such as using vinegar, lemon juice, or baking soda around windows and door frames to control ants.

## PESTICIDES CONTINUED

- If you decide to use a pesticide, select one designed for that specific pest. It will work better and do less harm to beneficial insects.
- When it comes to using pesticides, start with the lowest amount and/or concentration recommended. Increase as suggested, only if necessary.
- Never pour these chemicals down the drain.

Weeds, bugs, rodents – we call them pests for a reason. No one wants them around. But the convenience offered by a pesticide's quick fix has its price. Pesticides are poisons, and in most cases, their negative effects can far outweigh any positives of being rid of the pests. Pesticides have been linked to a range of health problems, including asthma, hyperactivity and behavior problems, cancer, learning disabilities, reproductive disorders, and compromised brain development.

### RESOURCES

--[www.saferchemicals.org](http://www.saferchemicals.org)

--[www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.org](http://www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.org)

## MOLD BASICS

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, mold plays a part in nature, but indoors, mold growth can be harmful to your health. There are many types of mold and none of them will grow without moisture or water.

- Fix plumbing leaks and all other water problems as soon as possible. If wet or damp areas are dried 24-48 hours after a leak or spill happens, mold will usually not grow.
- Scrub mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water then dry completely. It is best to avoid phosphates or chlorine in the products for an environmentally friendlier home.
- Try using a bleach solution of no more than one (1) cup of bleach in one (1) gallon of water. A chlorine free bleach may be used (for safety reasons), or a natural mineral, such as borax, in place of bleach to kill mold and bacteria.
- Try to keep the moisture level (humidity) below 60 percent.
- Cleaning molds *organically* is the safest for the family and the environment.
- Try using baking soda or washing soda mixed with water, then dry well. Or clean molds with essential oils, such as lavender, clove, or tea tree oil.
- An environmentally friendly solution is grapefruit seed extract spray (20 drops extract to 1 quart water).
- Cover cold surfaces with insulation.
- Keep ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) drip pans clean.

### RESOURCES

--[www.epa.gov/naturalevents/flooding.html](http://www.epa.gov/naturalevents/flooding.html)

PLEASE USE THIS ENVELOPE TO STORE  
FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
FROM OUR *NEWSWAVES* PUBLICATION





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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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