

Alachua County Water Quality Code

Chapter 77 (Ordinance 02-27)
prohibits non-storm water discharges into
storm water management systems,
which includes most roads.

The Storm Drain System

was built to collect and transport rain to
prevent flooding in urban areas. In most areas,
anything that flows or is discharged into the
storm drain system goes directly into local
creeks without any treatment.



Discharge of laundry wastewater to the storm
water collection system or to our creeks is
prohibited because it contains pollutants.

To learn about our water resources and
how you can protect them, visit:

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
www.AlachuaCountyWater.org

Gainesville Clean Water Partnership
www.GainesvilleCreeks.org

Laundry wise: Apartment Common Area Laundry
Rooms Save Water
<http://www.laundrywise.com/index.html>

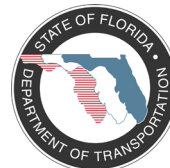
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development: Homes & Communities [http://
www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)



for Laundry Services

In this guide:

- Background information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for laundry services.
- How to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent water pollution in Alachua County.



BEST Management Practices

Older laundry facilities or “do-it-yourself” plumbers may not have correctly plumbed facilities to a sanitary sewer. These facilities are violating the Alachua County Water Quality Code and harming our water resources by discharging waste water into the storm water collection system or water bodies.

• Laundry wastewater is also called “grey water”

This refers to untreated wastewater that has not come into contact with human waste.

Grey water includes water from bathtubs, showers, sinks, floor drains, washing machines, and laundry tubs

Grey water can be contaminated by microbes (i.e. bacteria, protozoa, and viruses) that can spread disease and illness.

Grey water can have high phosphate and sodium levels from the use of laundry detergent and can pollute our creeks and lakes.

Laundry facilities are required to discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer or permitted septic system. Wastewater discharged anywhere else is considered a sanitary nuisance by the Alachua County Health Department and is subject to abatement and/or fines. Make sure your washing machines are connected to the sanitary sewer.

The good news for laundry facilities: Research by the National Research Center, Inc. found apartment residents with common laundry facilities used, on average, 69 gallons per week per unit for laundry, while those with in-unit washing machines used 227 gallons per week per unit. Residents with in-unit washing machines use 3.3 times more water than residents who utilize their apartment buildings common area laundry facilities. Also, residents with in-unit washers used five times more energy.

Renovating Your Laundry?

- When purchasing new equipment for your laundry, follow the guidelines below.

Washers

- Purchase energy efficient 14-16 lb., heavy duty commercial washers

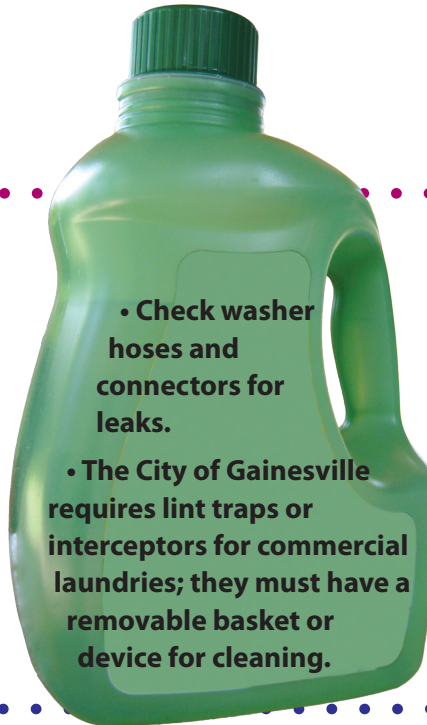
Dryers

- Provide one energy efficient, single load dryer for each washer
- When more than one dryer is required, stacked dryers may be used

- Double load dryers are less energy efficient and may slow the laundry process when used to dry less than a double wash load

Encourage your customers to save water and energy (and lower your costs) by asking them to:

- Select the minimum volume of water for each load
- Use the shortest wash cycle for slightly soiled loads
- Use cold water
- Use minimal detergent (phosphate free)
- Pre-treat stains to avoid re-washing
- Operate washers with full loads only



Laundry waste water can harm our creeks if it is not discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

