

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Haven Communities Maintenance

(907) 356-7000

<https://www.nhcalaska.com>

U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Directorate of Public
Works (DPW), Environmental Division

Front Desk

(907) 361-9686

Water Program

(907) 361-6220

Pest Management

(907) 361-4539

24-Hour Spill Reporting Hotline
(for spills outside of housing areas)

(907) 482-7267

Household Hazardous Waste Program

(907) 356-2023

Learn more about lawn care, gardening,
composting, and invasive species in the
Fairbanks area from the UAF Cooperative
Extension:

<https://uaf.edu/ces/garden/>

For more information, visit the
Fort Wainwright Storm Water website:

[https://home.army.mil/Alaska/index.php
/Fort-Wainwright/Storm-Water](https://home.army.mil/Alaska/index.php/Fort-Wainwright/Storm-Water)



From the U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Storm Water Program

HEALTHY YARDS & GARDENS

on Fort Wainwright



Wait to water your lawn until the grass begins to wilt. Apply about ½ to 1 inch of water so it soaks down into the ground, which helps the roots grow deeper.

Mow high - longer grass keeps the roots stronger, keeps moisture in the soil, and discourages weeds. Make sure your lawnmower is adjusted to 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches.

Mow often – Try to mow before the blades reach 4 to 5 inches. Leave grass clippings in place to recycle nitrogen. Avoid piling or clumping clippings in one area to prevent a rush of nutrients into storm water, which can lead to dead plants, algae growth, or unhappy fish.

Aerate your lawn once a month by using a lawn mower attachment or spiky shoes. Aeration helps the grass's roots grow stronger and helps water soak in. Rake or remove thatch buildup that exceeds ½ inch.

Fertilizer can also be a source of excess nutrients. Don't apply fertilizer, pesticides, or other chemicals in the rain or when heavy rain is forecasted.

Fertilize grass only when needed and use **slow-release fertilizers**. Granular fertilizers should be applied to moist soil and watered after application. Alaska typically has acidic soil, so agricultural lime is sometimes used to balance the chemistry.

With a few modifications for the short growing season, composting is a great way to turn food waste into nutrient-rich soil.

Re-seed areas where grass has eroded or died and use seeds approved for Alaska. **Do not plant invasive species** such as European bird cherry, common tansy, and others. Remove invasive species like bird vetch and foxtail barley.



PET WASTE

Pick up pet waste regularly. Dog and cat feces can be harmful to the environment. It “burns” grass with excess nutrients, spread bacteria and diseases, and is smelly and unsightly.

Cat and dog feces increase the risk of harmful parasites when they remain on the ground. Some parasites, like roundworm eggs, may not be infectious in the first 24 hours, but if left out can make the soil infectious for years.

No more than 3 piles should be in the yard at a time, and pet waste in common areas must be cleaned up immediately. **Scoop it up!**



USAG Alaska's Integrated Pest Management Plan uses a holistic approach to control pesticides and herbicides across the installation. All pesticides are a type of poison, and storm water can wash them into streams and rivers where they don't belong. For information, contact the DPW Environmental Division Pest Manager.

North Haven Communities (NHC) does all control for ants, wasps, hornets, and other pests in family housing areas. For help, contact NHC Maintenance.

Pests may be a symptom of an underlying problem. Use non-chemical methods, like **weeding, mulching or wide-row planting**. Certified pest controllers must use the minimum amount of chemicals needed. Herbicides must **never** be used in areas where children play.

Misuse of pesticides, and use inconsistent with the label, is a violation of Federal Law, so it is best to leave it to the professionals.

Bees and other pollinators are vital helpers. Planting native species, providing shallow water, and avoiding insecticides helps them and the whole ecosystem.

Clean up spills of pesticides, petroleum, and other pollutants and report to NHC Maintenance in housing areas at (907) 356-7000.

Outside of housing areas, report spills to the Garrison's 24-hour Spill Reporting Line at (907) 482-7267.

Bring leftover or unneeded products to the **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program** at Building 3489. You can also pick up reusable products for free!