

How to dispose of fertilizer

- Dallas residents can dispose of fertilizer and other home toxic waste free of charge at any Dallas County collection event or the permanent drop-off center. For information about collection day events, call (214) 553-1765. Collection events are also announced in your local newspaper. To schedule an appointment to drop off waste at the collection center, call (214) 553-1765.
- Give unwanted fertilizers to someone who can use them.
- If you store leftovers, keep the product out of the reach of children and pets.
- Wrap empty containers or bags in newspaper and dispose of them in the trash can.

Report illicit discharges and water polluters!

Call 311 or Storm Water Management at:
(214) 948-4022

Or visit our Web site at
www.dallascityhall.com/dallas/eng/html/storm_water_quality.html



For additional copies of this brochure, contact:
City of Dallas Public Works & Transportation Dept.
Storm Water Management
320 East Jefferson Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75203
(214) 948-4022

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City of Dallas

Dallas, the City that Works:
Diverse, Vibrant and Progressive

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How green is your green thumb?

Using Fertilizers Safely

Believe it or not, fertilizer is a common cause of water pollution

When carried by rain runoff into the storm drain system, fertilizer eventually drains into creeks, lakes or the Trinity River. Fertilizer reaching a water body causes nutrient pollution.

Nutrients consist of nitrogen and phosphorus that, when present in excess, cause rapid algae growth. Algae consume oxygen, often causing oxygen levels in a water body to fall too low to support aquatic life.

Environmental damage can be caused by:

- using fertilizers in excess (or used when not necessary)
- spilling fertilizer on a surface, such as a sidewalk or driveway, to later be washed away by rainfall
- applying before an expected rain

Before you purchase a fertilizer

- Get a soil test. Contact the Texas Cooperative Extension at (214) 903-3050. for information about their soil-testing program. A soil test will tell you what nutrients your soil needs so you can purchase the correct type of fertilizer.
- Purchase slow-release or organic fertilizers. Slow-release nitrogen sources such as compost, blood meal, sulfur-coated urea, and urea formaldehyde help lawns grow at a moderate, even pace. Avoid using quick-release fertilizer.

How to apply fertilizer safely

- Never apply fertilizers on a windy day or when rain is in the forecast.
- Read and follow the directions on the manufacturer product label. Never use more than what is recommended.
- Calibrate your spreader. Make sure you're applying the correct amount and concentration.
- Gently water your lawn after applying fertilizers. Never wait for a rainstorm to water in your fertilizer—in most cases, the rain will fall too rapidly for the fertilizer to be absorbed, and much of it will wash into the nearest stream.
- Sweep up spills on sidewalks and pavements. Throw the swept up granules onto your lawn.

How to reduce fertilizer use

- Landscape with native or adapted plants, trees, and grasses that are drought-tolerant and resist disease. Consider a xeriscape landscape that reduces the need for fertilizers, pesticides and watering.
- Participate in the 'Don't Bag It' program by using a mulching mower (or install a mulching blade to your lawnmower) and cut one-third of the height of the grass. Grasscycling will add nutrients back into your soil.
- Compost yard waste and use it on flower beds and gardens.