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**City of Dallas
Storm Water
Management**



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Everyone can help prevent storm water pollution

June 2005 -- The City of Dallas's Storm Water Management has launched a campaign to heighten public awareness of responsible storm water pollution prevention practices to improve the cleanliness of the City's waterways. Remember: Anything dumped into a storm drain flows directly to the nearest water body -- it does not get treated and cleaned. Everyone can help by following a few easy tips to go with the flow and keep our water clean.

1. Dispose of used motor oil responsibly -- recycle it!

Drain your used motor oil into a clean container and take it to an approved collection site. Many full-service gas stations, discount stores, quick lube centers, and auto parts stores will accept your used motor oil and filters free of charge.

2. Dispose of household hazardous waste properly. Use non-toxic alternatives.

Never pour hazardous wastes on the ground, in a storm drain, or in an indoor drain. Consider using non-toxic alternatives to toxic household chemicals. Call the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center at (214) 553-1765 for the date and location of its next hazardous waste collection event.

3. Practice the seven principles of xeriscape on your yard.

Xeriscape is the practice of landscaping with native plants and plants that adapt well to our area. Because these plants need less attention and water, a xeriscape landscape will lower your water bill and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. To receive more information about xeriscape, call (214) 670-3155.

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4. Use pesticides and slow-release fertilizers properly. Use non-toxic alternatives.

When applying pesticides and fertilizers, read the directions! Water fertilizers in with a sprinkler and don't apply before a rain, which can wash garden chemicals into storm water drains. Some pesticides can kill fish and other animal life and improper use of fertilizers can cause algae growth, which degrades water quality.

5. Water lawns and gardens responsibly.

Water only your lawn and garden, not the sidewalk or street. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces to prevent runoff.

6. Don't dump grass and yard waste in storm drains or on creek banks.

Grass clippings and yard waste also cause algae growth. Dumping anything, including yard waste, can prevent effective drainage and cause flooding. Use a mulching mower, a mulching blade, or put your clippings in a compost bin.

7. Wash your car at a car wash.

Cleaning your car at a car wash prevents the soap, polishes, waxes and other chemicals from entering the storm drain system. A car wash drains to the sanitary sewer.

8. Correct erosion problems.

Use landscaping, retaining walls, and other barriers to prevent soil from washing away as silt into storm drains or directly into creeks. Silt prevents effective drainage by blocking and displacing water.

9. Dispose of trash properly.

Put trash, including cigarette butts, in proper receptacles, not on the ground, where they can wash into storm drains and eventually pollute a creek, river or lake.

10. Pick up pet waste.

Pet waste can add bacteria to the water, which can have harmful effects on aquatic life, other wildlife, and humans.

11. Report polluters and water quality problems by calling the City's non-emergency hot line, 311.

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