

# Start a grass roots movement Don't over-fertilize



Clean waterways start here.

Fertilizer and lawn chemical runoff contributes to water pollution in Harris County.

Everything that washes off your lawn goes down a storm drain and directly into a local body of water.

Applying too much fertilizer to your lawn is like pouring chemicals directly into an area bayou or stream.

Lawn chemical runoff contains pollutants that may contaminate drinking water supplies and are toxic to humans and aquatic organisms.



Here's what you can do to protect your area waterways.

- Use the correct amount of fertilizer. More isn't better.
- Follow fertilizer package instructions or have your soil tested.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly.
- Work with your lawn care service to make sure they "do the right thing."
- Bag your lawn waste and leave it on the curb for pickup.
- Mow the top 1/3 of your grass and leave the clippings on your lawn. Your lawn will require less water and fertilizer.



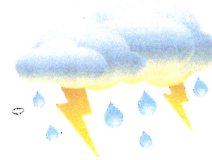
- Consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods.
- Make your own compost using yard waste or use a commercially available variety. Mixing compost with your soil means you'll need less chemical fertilizer.
- Sweep up clippings and fertilizer from paved surfaces and dispose of them properly.



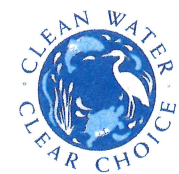
- Rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street and gutter.
- Keep soil covered with vegetation or mulch to control erosion.



- **DON'T** overwater after fertilizing.
- **DON'T** fertilize right before it rains.
- **DON'T** use fertilizer or mulch made with manure.



For more information please  
call the Harris County  
Watershed Protection Group  
at 713.290.3000 or visit  
our website at  
[www.CleanWaterways.org](http://www.CleanWaterways.org).

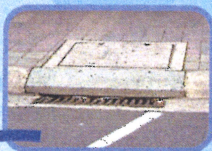


**Clean waterways start here.**



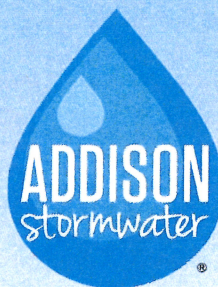
## What is stormwater? Where does it go?

The stormwater system carries rain from your home, garden or business through downpipes and storm drains, to the nearest lake, creek or river.



Clean stormwater helps keep our local waterbodies healthy.

Many materials carried within the stormwater system can pollute our local waterways because it is not treated like sewer water.



For any questions relating to stormwater pollution, please contact:  
Marissa Paz  
Management Assistant  
Infrastructure and Development Services  
972.450.2818

## Protect our local waterways from stormwater pollution





## What can **YOU** do to protect our local waterways?

Pollution entering  
the stormwater  
system threatens  
the livelihoods of  
our local  
waterbodies.

Our creeks  
and wetlands  
provide a habitat for birds,  
frogs, other animals and  
plant life that act as a  
natural filter  
for small amounts of  
pollution in  
the water.

Prevent  
soap from entering  
the drain by washing  
your car on the  
lawn, which  
absorbs the  
water.

Please think  
about your actions  
at home, work and in  
public places before  
impacting our local  
waterways.

Clean up  
after your dog by  
"scooping the poop"  
and placing it in  
the trash  
can.

Compost or place  
your garden  
clippings in the  
trash instead of  
sweeping it into  
the street or down  
the drain.

For Household Hazardous  
Waste (HHW) call CWD at  
972.392.9300 and they  
will mail a collection kit  
to your home. The kit has  
instructions on how to  
prepare and label the  
HHW which they will pick  
up at no additional cost!

