

Pollution costs us all. . . And there are fines.

Hazardous Waste Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- A person intentionally or knowingly transports, stores or disposes of any hazardous waste without a manifest or without all required permits
- Individuals - imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a \$1,000 to \$50,000 fine
- Corporations - \$1,000 to \$250,000 fine
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.162

Used Oil Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- A person intentionally discharges used oil or knowingly disposes of or otherwise handles any used oil within the State of Texas in violation of the rules for used oil
- Each day is a separate violation
- Fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$50,000 and/or imprisonment up to five years
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.176

Water Pollution Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- A person intentionally or knowingly discharges or permits the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution without strict compliance with all required permits or other authorization; Water in the state includes drainage ditches and storm water sewers
- Each day is a separate violation
- Imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine up to \$100,000
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.145

Endangerment Criminal Offense and Penalty

- Imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a fine up to \$500,000
- Corporation - fine up to \$250,000
- Texas Water Code, Sections 7.152-4

Local and State Administrative and Civil Penalties for Non-Compliance with Storm Water Laws and Regulations

- Harris County's Local Regulation - up to \$1,000 per day per violation
- City of Houston's Local Ordinances - maximum of \$2,000 per day per violation
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.052 - up to \$10,000 per day per violation
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.102 - up to \$25,000 per day per violation

Clean waterways start with you. . .
Be part of the program!



For more information about local storm water quality programs visit www.CleanWaterways.org or call Harris County at (713) 290-3000.

Do You Know the Storm Drain System?





Get with the System: Nothing but Water Should Go Down Our Storm Drains.

Storm drains are just for rainwater. That's because the water that goes down them is not treated — it goes straight to Galveston Bay and carries our pollution with it, contaminating all of our waterways in the process. So get with the storm drain system and follow these guidelines:

- ⊘ **They are not garbage cans.** Don't toss your food wrappers, cups or trash down there.
- ⊘ **Positively no paint.** Paint and storm water don't mix, so don't pour your leftovers down the drain. While you can throw cans of dried up latex paint in the trash, oil base paint should be taken to a hazardous waste disposal site.
- ⊘ **Doggy doo is a don't.** Curb the urge to put your pet's droppings down the drain. Instead, wrap them properly and toss them in the trash.
- ⊘ **Definitely no grass clippings.** Don't blow your yard clippings or leaves down the drain, and don't toss tree limbs there. Either bag your yard waste properly and put it out for pickup, or use the clippings in a natural compost site.



- ⊘ **Don't use them as your personal drain.** That means don't pour grease, motor oil, or kitchen waste down the drain. And be careful not to over-fertilize your lawn, because the fertilizer can run off into our waterways.

So get with the system. Because when you help keep our storm drains clean, you're also keeping our waterways clean. For more information, log onto www.CleanWaterways.org

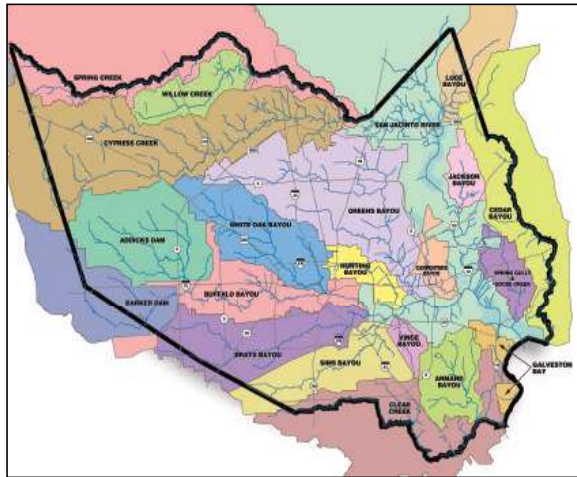


Where does your storm water go?

Harris County is divided into 22 geographical areas defined by nature that we call watersheds. Rainwater from each of these areas flows into a body of water such as a bayou or creek. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Right now, we invite you to "go with the flow," and find yours. It's a good idea to know in case of severe weather alerts or emergencies.

Harris County Watersheds:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Addicks Reservoir | Hunting Bayou |
| Armand Bayou | Jackson Bayou |
| Barker Reservoir | Little Cypress Creek |
| Brays Bayou | Luce Bayou |
| Buffalo Bayou | San Jacinto River |
| Carpenters Bayou | Sims Bayou |
| Cedar Bayou | Spring Creek |
| Clear Creek | Spring Gully & Goose Creek |
| Cypress Creek | Vince Bayou |
| Galveston Bay | White Oak Bayou |
| Greens Bayou | Willow Creek |



Cleaner Waterways Have a New Source — www.CleanWaterways.org

Clean Water Clear Choice: Water quality has a new website— www.CleanWaterways.org. This is the place where residents will find interactive information on everything that goes into storm water quality including Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM), Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Adopt-a-County Mile and other projects and programs for kids, professionals and everyone who lives here. Available online now:



- Fun and educational games for both children and adults
- Ways to get involved in environmental programs
- Educational diagrams that show how urban development impacts the natural water cycle

And keep checking back as we continue to enhance the site with flash animation for construction sites, newsletter for professionals, illustrated permit applications and more. In short, if you love a clean environment, bookmark www.CleanWaterways.org.

Get in the SWIM and Mark Your Neighborhood Storm Drains.

This medallion is a Storm Water Inlet Marker, which is placed on neighborhood storm drains. It tells the world (and your neighbors) how to protect our waterways by not putting things down the drain. Help us get the word out! For a great neighborhood project, call Harris County at (713) 290-3000 and get a free SWIM Maker Kit for your neighborhood storm drains.



Did You Know?

- Energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a TV set for 3 hours, and is the equivalent of half a can of gasoline
- Every ton of recycled office space saves 380 gallons of oil
- If just 25% of U.S. families used 10 fewer plastic bags a month, we would save over 2.5 billion bags a year products, or automotive by-products

Keep your lawn green this summer.

All of us in Harris County can do our part for clean waterways by thinking green as we tend our lawns. Some reminders:

- Don't over fertilize. When you do, the excess runs off and into the storm drains.
- Don't use pesticides or fertilizers before it rains. The storm water will carry it down the drain, and it can cause bacteria to grow upstream.



The Dirty Half-Dozen

Non-toxic Home Remedies for Spring Cleaning

The best way to get rid of household hazardous waste is not to create it. So in the spirit of spring cleaning, we would like to pass along a few new tips for less toxic alternatives to common household products from the Environmental Bulletin: Less-Toxic Alternatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Alternative Household Products Recipes from Los Angeles County.

1. For a non-toxic air freshener, pour some pure vanilla on a cotton ball, then put it in a saucer in your car or refrigerator.
2. Summer can mean strong odors for garbage cans, so pour baking soda in the bottom to help remove smells.
3. A mixture of vinegar and baking soda makes a good non-toxic surface cleaner.
4. Scrub your toilet bowls with a solution of 1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon of water.

5. Your recipe for cleaning upholstery, rugs and carpets: Mix 4 cups water, 1 cup white vinegar, 3 tablespoons sodium lauryl sulfate, 2 tablespoons baking soda, 1/8 teaspoon lavender essential oil (optional), 1/8 teaspoon ginger essential oil (optional); shake mixture vigorously and shampoo using small circular motions; scrub sudsy area well.
6. Want a remedy for roaches? Sprinkle dark places and cracks with a boric acid formulation. For solutions on how to dispose of containers from other cleaning products that may contain hazardous waste products, check our website at: www.CleanWaterways.org.



(Harris County assumes no responsibility and disclaims any injury or damage resulting from the use or effect of a product or information included here.)

