

8

Things YOU Can Do To Protect Your Water Supply

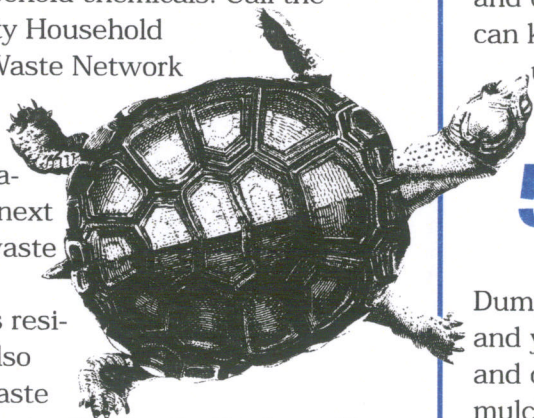
Remember: Anything dumped into a storm drain flows directly to the nearest water supply—it does not get treated and cleaned.

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, 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 Household Hazardous Waste Network at (214) 553-1765 for the date and location of their next hazardous waste collection event. Dallas residents may also take toxic waste to a permanent collection facility by calling (214) 553-1765.



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.

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 hose and don't apply before a rain. Some pesticides can kill fish and other animal life and improper use of fertilizers can cause algae growth, which degrades water quality.

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

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

6. Wash your car at a car wash.

Cleaning your car at a car wash prevents the soaps, polishes, waxes and other chemicals from entering the storm drain system.

7. 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.

8. Report polluters and water quality problems by calling 311 or Storm Water Management at (214) 948-4022.

Did you know?

- Less than one-half of one percent of the Earth's water supply is usable fresh water. Of every 10,000 gallons of water on Earth, fewer than 50 are potentially usable fresh water; only three gallons are found in surface water bodies such as lakes, rivers and creeks.
- Dallas Water Utilities treats about 427 million gallons of drinking water a day from nearby lakes for residents of Dallas and customer cities. One person uses about 150 gallons of water a day. Water pollution increases the cost of producing drinking water as treatment becomes more difficult.
- At the present time, Dallas is fortunate to have an adequate water supply due to usually good annual rainfalls and long-range planning. Other areas in Texas aren't as fortunate.
- Water pollution is a threat to our water supply, our health and our economy. No one wants to live or do business near polluted water. Water pollution is destructive to our economy and lifestyle.

- The Trinity River is an important asset to Dallas. We need to work together to improve the quality of the water that flows into it.
- Anything dumped into a storm drain flows directly to the nearest water supply—it does not get treated and cleaned. Every cigarette butt, drop of oil and spilled chemical you see on the street will find its way into a nearby creek.

For more information visit our Web site at
www.dallascityhall.com/dallas/eng/html/storm_water_quality.html

*Let's work together
to protect our water.*



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