

Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it in the garbage or by flushing. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

Swimming Pool and Spa

- Drain your swimming pool only when necessary and when chlorine levels are no longer detectable. Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.

Septic System Use and Maintenance

- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every three (3) years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3-5 years).
- Care for the septic system drainfield by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- Flush reasonably. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items, such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter, can clog the septic system and potentially damage components.



*Everyone plays a role in
polluting stormwater...*

*Everyone has a role
in cleaning it up!*

**This publication is provided to
Rosenberg residents in order
to provide information about
stormwater pollution prevention.**

**ROSENBERG
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM**

**Administered by
City of Rosenberg
2110 4th Street, P.O. Box 32
Rosenberg, TX 77471-0032**

**www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us
REPORTING HOTLINE
Tel 832-595-3301**

Visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps
for more information on stormwater pollution.

Make your home
The
SOLUTION
TO STORMWATER
POLLUTION!



**A homeowner's guide to
healthy habits for clean water.**

Make your home The SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into storm sewer systems or directly to a storm sewer, ditch, stream, river, or other water bodies.

Polluted runoff is the Nation's greatest threat to clean water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can help keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground, out of stormwater, and out of our drinking water.

Adopt these **Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water** today to help protect streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters.



Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local storm sewer, ditch, stream, river or other bodies of water.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into the storm sewer, ditch, or other local water bodies.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label.
- Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely.
- Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints.
- Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.
- Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods.
- Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

REMEMBER...

**Storm drains connect to water bodies -
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!**