

Storm Water Management Section

Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2005 Edition

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If you would like us to make a presentation for your organization about storm water pollution, or permitting requirements, contact our Education Team at (214) 948-4022 and ask to speak with any of the following Education Team members:

Denyse Jones or Jim Veach

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Check it out!

In May of this year the City of Dallas introduced it's newest mass media campaign, "It goes with the flow. Keep it clean" to educate the public about storm drain pollution prevention. The campaign includes English and Spanish radio ads, print publications, outdoor billboard advertising, and DART bus advertising visuals that promote best management practices for reducing or preventing pollution to the City's storm water system.

Aired messages can be heard on the following FM radio stations at various times: KDBN, KESN, KJKK, KKDA, KLUV, KRNB, KSCS, KTYS, KESS, KLNO and KFZO. AM radios stations running the same ad include: KHVN, KKDA, KLIF, and KRLD.

Print ads will be found in the following publications; The Dallas Morning News, The Dallas Post Tribune, QUICK, El Herald, Al Dia, and Novedades.

Keep your eyes open for billboards located along various major freeways and thoroughfares. Even if you don't ride the bus, there is a good chance you'll come across the DART bus advertising visuals. So spread the news and check out the ads!

For more information, go to: www.wheredoesitogo.com



Did You Know?

You can be the solution to used oil pollution

Did you know that one quart of oil pollutes up to 250,000 gallons of water?

Used oil dumped down a storm water drain does not get treated or cleaned up but goes directly into our creeks, rivers and lakes. Used oil contains heavy metals and additives that are toxic to fish, turtles, birds, and other wildlife, as well as to people. Texans improperly dispose of approximately 18 million gallons of used motor oil each year, making it a leading cause of water pollution.

Did you know that oil does not wear out but just gets dirty?

Used oil can be recycled. Re-refining used oil takes 70 percent less energy than refining crude oil, providing big energy savings. If all used oil improperly disposed of by do-it-yourselfers was recycled nationwide, it could produce enough energy to power 360,000 homes each year or could provide 96 million quarts of high-quality motor oil.

Did you know that it is illegal to dump your used oil down a storm drain?

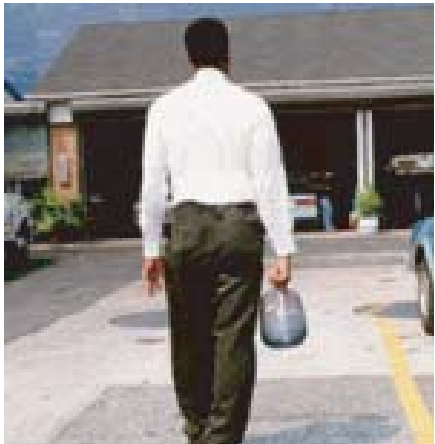
The State of Texas and the City of Dallas have prohibited the dumping of used oil in the trash or down a storm drain and encouraged recycling programs, which reduce pollution by improperly disposed used oil.

Did you know that it is easy to recycle used oil?

Drain used motor oil into a clean, leak proof container like a milk jug. Do not mix used oil with anything like antifreeze because this will make it unfit for recycling. Most full-service gas stations, quick lube centers, and auto parts retailers accept your used motor oil. Just call 1-800-253-2687 or go to www.earth911.org to find the closest recyclers to you. The Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center also accepts your used oil and other automotive fluids. The Center is located at 11234 Plano Road, Dallas, TX 75243. You need a driver's license and utility bill to prove residency. Call 214-553-1765 for hours of operation.



NEVER dump your used oil down a storm drain.



Develop a habit of recycling your used oil at quick lube centers.

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Summer is the time for outdoor activities, including skateboarding. Unfortunately, about 26,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year with skateboard related injuries. Six out of every 10 skateboard injuries are to children under 15 years of age. Skateboarders should be particularly careful while skateboarding in a concrete drainage channel and to stay away from storm drains. Children can be hurt by skating into a storm drain. Follow these safety tips: never ride in the street; always wear protective gear; learn to fall—practice falling on a soft surface or grass; and if you lose your skateboard down a storm drain do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Call 311 for assistance by city crews.

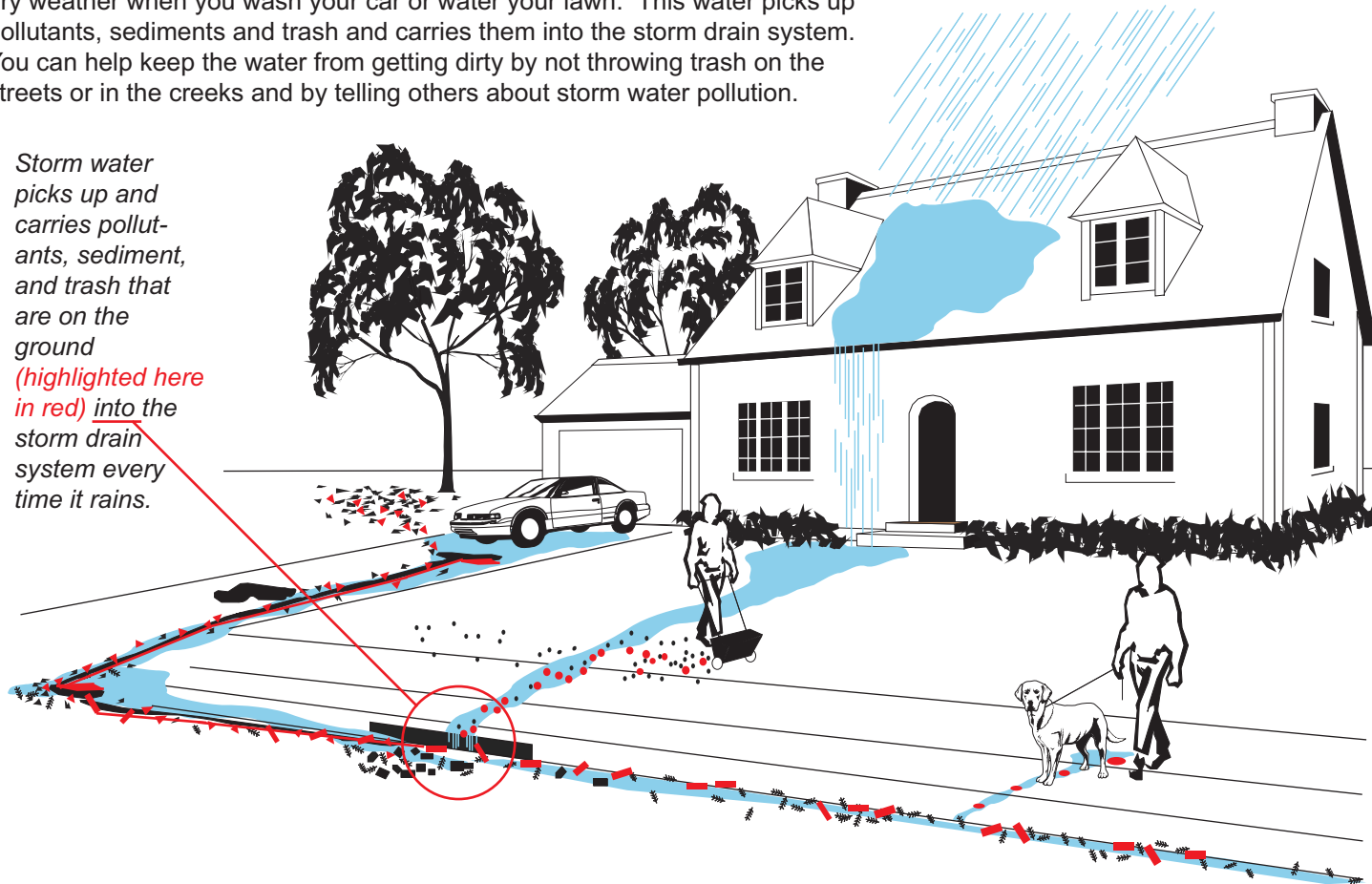
It Goes With the Flow. Keep It Clean.

The number one reason that our creeks, rivers, and lakes get dirty is that pollutants in storm water flow into storm drains without treatment. Storm water runoff is the rainfall that flows over yards, streets, alleys, parking lots, and buildings and enters the storm drain system. Storm water runoff flows into the storm drains so our streets don't flood. But all the water that flows into the storm drains does not get cleaned up but goes directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. That means that any pollutant in the storm water runoff gets carried right to our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Soaps, grass clippings, trash, pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, dirt, and oil are just some of the pollutants that make our water unhealthy for people, fish, turtles, birds, and wildlife. Water runs also down the street during dry weather when you wash your car or water your lawn. This water picks up pollutants, sediments and trash and carries them into the storm drain system. You can help keep the water from getting dirty by not throwing trash on the streets or in the creeks and by telling others about storm water pollution.



Storm water picks up and carries pollutants, sediment, and trash that are on the ground (highlighted here in red) into the storm drain system every time it rains.



When you see people washing their car in their driveway or on the street, do you ever wonder where that soapy water goes? It flows through the nearest storm drain inlet, into the storm drain system, and from there directly into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. Detergents are one of the most common pollutants found in Dallas storm drains and neighborhood creeks. Detergents in our waterways can harm fish and other aquatic life.

When your car needs washing, use a commercial car wash. Many car wash businesses recycle the water several times before it is sent to a wastewater treatment plant where it is cleaned before being discharged to the Trinity River. However, if you must wash your car in your driveway, these tips will help minimize pollution: try using just water and a rag; use only minimal amounts of soap and contain in a bucket; use a spray nozzle for your hose to reduce water use. Try to have the water from your driveway drain to the lawn – your yard acts as a sponge and prevents soapy water from flowing down the street. Note: The City of Dallas Code prohibits parking cars directly on your lawn.



Many Dallas citizens enjoy the cool relaxation of a swimming pool each summer. These pools are prized possessions to their owners but can be a nuisance to the storm drain system if they are not handled properly. Read below to find out more about the potential summer polluter sitting in your backyard.

The Facts

- Our creeks, rivers, and lakes can become polluted with chlorine, filter media (sediment), and other contaminants when pools are drained directly to the storm drain system.
- Chlorine is toxic to aquatic animals and other wildlife.
- Sediment can destroy underwater habitats and make it difficult for fish to breathe, find food, and hide from predators.

Some Solutions

- Before draining a pool, dechlorinate the water (either with chemicals or by dissipation), make sure the pH is between 6 and 9, and neutralize any harmful quantities of chemicals that may be left over from pool maintenance.
- Clean the pool of all debris and vegetation before draining.
- Drain pools to the SANITARY SEWER system (in accordance with Dallas Plumbing Code). For more information call Dallas Water Utilities at 214-670-3140. A pool may be drained to a natural drainage course if access to the sanitary sewer system is not available.
- Discharge all backwash from filters to the SANITARY SEWER system or consider installing a closed system that will discharge back to the pool.
- Clean pool filters over a planter box, lawn, or other vegetated area.

Enjoying your summer with a pool does not have to result in storm water pollution. In fact, the easy steps above can help to promote a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone now and in the future.

Upcoming Events

Look for the Storm Water Management booth at the following events:

July

- 21** Construction Workshop on Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements
City Hall - L1FN, Dallas, TX,
8:30 am - 1 pm
RSVP required - call 214-948-4073 by 7-14-05

August

- 11** Mayor's Back To School Fair,
City Hall Plaza, Dallas, TX,
6 am - 3 pm
- 13** Mayor's Summer Reading Program,
City Hall Plaza, Dallas, TX
10 am - noon
- 18** Industrial Workshop on Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements
City Hall - L1FN, Dallas, TX,
8:30 am - 1 pm
RSVP required - call 214-948-4073 by 8-11-05

September

- 15** Construction Workshop on Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements
City Hall - L1FN, Dallas, TX,
8:30 am - 1 pm
RSVP required - call 214-948-4073 by 9-8-05
- 17** Pikes Park, Mexican Independence Day Celebration
11am - 6pm
- 24** Dallas Zoo,
Town Hall Meeting for Districts 1 & 3
9 am - 2 pm