

# SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

Easy things you can do to protect our water

# A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEANER WATER

- **Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in.**
- **Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.**
- **Stormwater pollution is one of Texarkana's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.**

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- By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.
- As part of Texarkana's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution.
- Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

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- ◉ **As a resident, business, or other member of the Texarkana community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.**
  - **Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides**
    - Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
    - Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
    - Look into alternatives for pesticides.
    - Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
    - If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.
    - Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

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## ○ Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local water bodies and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or work place, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

# A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEANER WATER

## ◉ Clean up after your pet

- Many public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Make sure you know the city's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law.
- And remember to:
  - Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
  - Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
  - Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

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## ⦿ **Don't litter**

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

## ⦿ **Dispose of yard waste properly**

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Follow the city's yard waste collection rules.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

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- ◉ **Contact information**
- ◉ **For more information on stormwater related topics, visit <http://arkansas.txkusa.org/departments/public-works/storm-water.html>**
- ◉ **Additional information is also available at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Websites [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) or [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)**
- ◉ **City of Texarkana Arkansas  
Public Works Department  
Roger Douglas, Flowmaster  
870-779-4977**