



TIPS TO HELP PROTECT OUR WATER!

Did You Know?

Storm Water does not get treated. Whatever goes into the storm drain system goes directly into our surface waters such as creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers.



Many products that we use every day can harm our surface waters. By following these tips you can help keep our creeks, ponds and lakes clean.

Used Oil



- ▶ Used oil, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids are very toxic, but used oil is **recyclable!**
- ▶ Some service stations, commercial dealers or household collection

centers will accept used oil.

Paints



- ▶ Paints and solvents are very toxic. Enamel, oil paints, solvents, and wood preservatives are also flammable.

▶ Fully use these products or take any unused portion to the Home Chemical Collection Center (214-553-1765).

- ▶ Don't pour unused portions down the drain. Whenever possible, use water based products.

- ▶ Don't wash brushes or containers in the street.

Household Cleaners



- ▶ Common household cleaners are **toxic** and corrosive. Carpet, oven, drain and toilet cleaners, cleaners containing bleach or ammonia, and disinfectants contain

hazardous chemicals.

- ▶ **Never** discard any unused portion of any cleaner into the street or storm sewer. Fully use the product so that no waste remains in the container. Rinse and recycle the

container if possible or bring it to the Home Chemical Collection Center.

Batteries



- ▶ Batteries contain hazardous materials — acid, cadmium, lead, nickel, and zinc.

- ▶ Store used batteries safely until they can be taken to a Home Chemical Collection Center.

Pesticides



- ▶ Pesticides and herbicides are specifically designed to kill, and therefore are poisonous. Buy only the amount of product that you will need.

- ▶ If you have any surplus **don't** throw it in the trash, take unused portions to a Home Chemical Collection Center.

Trash and Debris



- ▶ Don't pollute the streets...trash and debris will be washed or blown into nearby creeks.

- ▶ Glass and plastic containers can be washed and taken to a recycling center.

Aluminum cans can also be recycled. Check with your grocery store to see if they will recycle grocery bags or bring your own.

- ▶ Do not discard hazardous chemical containers into your dumpster. The containers may break during pick-up or transportation, and release chemicals into the parking lot or the landfill. From there, they can drain into the waterways.

Do your part to help keep our waters clean!

Leaves—An Unexpected Source of Pollution



You probably don't realize it, but you live on "waterfront property". In fact, most everyone in Carrollton lives on a lake or stream when it comes to storm water runoff.

That's because the distance between your yard and the water's edge is as close as the nearest storm drain or ditch.

An easy way that you can help clean the ponds, creeks and rivers is to keep leaves and other debris out of gutters and ditches.

In wooded areas and grassy fields, rainwater and melting snow soak into the ground as nature intended. Leaves generally decompose where they fall.

But in urban areas like Carrollton, these pervious surfaces have been paved over so that rainwater gushes down our sidewalks and streets, delivering the leaves along with dirt, oil, fertilizers, grass clippings and garbage into the storm drainage system.

So a big source of water pollution today actually comes from **you and me!**

Individually, we contribute little to pollution. Collectively, our urban households have a damaging effect.

What can you do? A lot!

Inevitably, some leaves will get into the water regardless of what we do to stop them, but we can prevent much of the pollution by following these simple water-friendly practices.

Compost: Adding leaves to a compost pile creates an inexpensive and nutrient-rich fertilizer for your vegetable and flower gardens. Composting allows us to imitate and reap the rewards of the natural recycling process.

Till: You can till leaves directly into a garden, contributing valuable organic matter.

Mulch: If you have a mulching mower, you can chop the leaves into small particles that will decompose directly into your lawn. If you have a bagger on your mulching mower, you can use the leaves to mulch flowerbeds and shrubs.

Rake: Rake leaves and collect them in a bag for curbside pickup.



Courtesy of City of Sun Prairie

Save the Dates!

Fats, Oils and Grease Recycling Event:

Cease the Grease! Save the Drain!

Drop off your used cooking oil to be disposed of properly and avoid costly repairs to your drains.

FREE Cooking Oil Disposal!

Central Service Center
2711 Nimitz Lane

Monday, November 30 &
Tuesday, December 1
8 a.m.—6 p.m.



Home Chemical Collection Day

Dispose of household chemicals the responsible way!

Home Chemical Collection Day Event
1441 W. Trinity Mills Road
Carrollton, TX

April 24, 2010
9am—3pm

Must be a Dallas County Resident