



# Carrollton Environmental Services THE STORMWATER READER

May 2015

## LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF RAIN

“April showers bring May flowers.” But how do you deal with all that rain in the meantime? The city of Carrollton is working on reducing the effects of polluted stormwater runoff, which is the water you see flowing down the street when it rains. One way that residents of the community can help is by diverting rooftop runoff away from pavement.

Instead of allowing that rain to flow down your driveway or sidewalk to the nearest storm drain, it is possible to divert the rain in at least three ways:

- Consider using a downspout extender to direct the water onto a landscaped area. Purchase a rain barrel, and direct downspout water directly into it. You will not only reduce stormwater runoff, but you can conserve water by using what you capture for irrigation. Just be sure to follow your local code for rain barrel requirements. In Carrollton, rainwater harvesting systems requirements are found in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Article VIII (SF) Single Family Districts.
- Invest in a rain garden, which is a natural or hand-dug shallow depression designed to soak up water. Rain gardens are created with highly absorbent soil and the proper mix of plants to facilitate collecting water and infiltrating it back into the ground.



Courtesy of The University of Rhode Island



*Did You Know*



**Begins with  
YOU and ME!**

## NON-TOXIC CLEANING TIPS FOR SPRING!

### Lemon Juice Uses

Lemon juice is another natural substance that can be used to clean your home. Lemon juice can be used to dissolve soap scum and hard water deposits. Lemon is a great substance to clean and shine brass and copper. Try mixing lemon juice with vinegar or baking soda to make cleaning pastes. Cut a lemon in half and sprinkle baking soda on the cut section of the lemon. Use the lemon to scrub dishes, surfaces, and stains. Be aware that lemon juice can act as a natural bleach. It's a good idea to test it out on a hidden area first. Mix 1 cup olive oil with ½ cup lemon juice and you have a furniture polish for hardwood furniture. Lemon juice can also be used to treat stains because of its natural bleaching qualities.



### Baking Soda Uses

Baking soda can be used to scrub surfaces in much the same way as commercial non-abrasive cleansers. Baking soda is great as a deodorizer. Place a box in the refrigerator and freezer to absorb odors. Put it anywhere you need deodorizing action. Use it in trash cans, laundry, and even super smelly sneakers. Baking soda makes a great addition in the laundry room as well. Baking soda is actually one of the most versatile cleaners on the planet. Oven cleaner: mix equal parts salt, baking soda and water. Wipe away grease before using cleaner. Apply paste. Let stand for 5 minutes. Wipe away.



### Carpet Freshener and Stain Remover:

**Freshener:** Combine 1 cup crushed dried herbs like lavender or rosemary with 1 teaspoon ground cloves. Shake to blend, sprinkle over carpet and let sit for 1 hour. Vacuum.

**Stain Remover:** Pour 1-2 teaspoons cornstarch onto fresh spill, let rest. Vacuum.



Courtesy of about .com and City of Dallas

## DOG POOP FACTS!

- **Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop**

Because we feed our dogs food that's different from the food wild animals eat, dog waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. And due to the large number of pets in suburban neighborhoods and local parks, this hardy dog waste accumulates. In North Central Texas, it is estimated that there are about 1.5 million dogs and these dogs produce about 1 million pounds of waste every day!

- **Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria, Parasites**

Dog waste can contain harmful organisms like E. coli, Giardia, Salmonella, roundworms, hookworms, and Cryptosporidium. These can be passed on to you or your pet and may cause health problems.

- **Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Water Bodies**

Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers and alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards.

- **City of Carrollton Ordinances Require Cleanup**

The city of Carrollton Storm Water Pollution Prevention and Animal Services ordinances require that pet owners pick up after their pet both in public places and at their home. Failure to pick up after your pet has a fine amount up to \$2000.00.

Courtesy of Jefferson County, Colorado and NCTCOG