



City of Plano Homeowner's Guide to Preventing Storm Water Pollution

What is Storm Water?



Storm water is pure rainwater **plus anything that the rain carries along with it such as pollutants, trash, and sediment.**

In urban areas like Plano, rain that falls on the roof of your house, or collects on paved areas like streets, alleys, and driveways is carried away through a system of pipes that is **separate** from the sewage system. These pipes lead directly to local creeks and lakes in our area.

Unlike sewage, **STORM WATER IS NOT TREATED** at a wastewater treatment facility. Remember that our drinking water comes from area lakes. If you discharge pollutants into the storm drain system, you pollute your drinking water.

The storm drain is for rain, not dumping. As a homeowner, you can take ten simple steps to help prevent storm water pollution. It's our water, take it personally!

Ten Simple Steps

- ✓ Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it at home. Car washes drain to the sanitary sewer and some even recycle their water. If you must wash your car at home, use biodegradable soap and apply water sparingly.
- ✓ When you change the oil in your vehicle, dispose of it properly at an oil recycling center. Don't dump it on the ground or in the storm drain.
- ✓ Check your vehicle, boat, or motorcycle for leaks. Don't rinse spilled fluid into the storm drain. Instead, use an absorbent material, such as kitty litter, then sweep it up.



- ✓ Never dump or sweep anything into the storm drain. Compost your grass clippings or leave them on the lawn. City of Plano will collect your yard clippings. For further information, call (972) 769-4150.



- ✓ Pick up after your pet. When pet waste is left on the ground, the rain washes it into the storm drain then into our area creeks and lakes.
- ✓ Don't apply pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides before it rains. The rain won't help these chemicals soak into the ground; it will only create polluted storm water runoff.
- ✓ Use non-toxic or organic alternatives to pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides.
- ✓ Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer system where it can be treated.
- ✓ Dispose of paint and other household hazardous waste at recycling facilities. Plano's Household Chemical Collection program can help: (972) 769-4150.
- ✓ Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Throw litter away in your garbage container but recycle what you can.



To report a prohibited discharge into the Storm Drain or Creek System during business hours, please call our Hotline at 972.941.7184. After hours, you may call 972.424.5678. To learn more about water pollution, visit our website at www.plano.gov/water.

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