

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE STORM DRAIN

When grass clippings, pet waste, automotive products, fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals wash down a storm drain, they don't go away. They flow into rivers and lakes, harming plants and animals and contaminating the water we drink. The technical term is "nonpoint source pollution." Here's how to make sure that you don't help feed the storm drain:

YARD

Two of our biggest sources of nonpoint source pollution are over-watering and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. Here are some tips for reducing nonpoint source pollution from your yard.

- Do not overfertilize. Sweep (do not wash) fertilizer and soil off driveways and walkways. Use native and adapted plants and grasses that require less water and fertilizer.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and to insulate and nourish the soil.
- Use nontoxic pest controls.

AUTO

Each year Texans improperly dump millions of gallons of used motor oil. One quart can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water, enough water to supply a family of four for a year! Autos contribute to nonpoint source pollution in other ways, too.

- Recycle motor oil, filters, fluids and batteries by taking them to service station that has a recycling program or call 1-800-CLEAN up for the motor oil recycling center nearest you.
- Drive less to reduce auto runoff, carpool, consolidate trips or use mass transit whenever possible.

PETS

Every year thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains and into rivers, lakes and other sources of drinking water. For your health and the health of others, please pick up after your pet.

- Pick up pet waste from your lawn. It is not a fertilizer.
- Encourage friends and family to pick up after their pets using a mutt mitt or plastic, disposable bag and never allow pet waste to wash into storm drains.

HOME

Although most cleaners, paints and pesticides used at home go into the trash or down the drain, if they are used outside or improperly discarded, they create nonpoint source pollution.

- Use cleaning products that are phosphate free, biodegradable or nontoxic, especially if they are used outdoors. Avoid products with ammonia, chlorine, diethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid and petroleum solvents.
- Discourage insects with good housekeeping. If you must eradicate insects, avoid toxic chemicals or use pest control companies that use less toxic products.

TO LOCATE A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY NEAR YOU, CALL 1-800 CLEAN UP.