LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO STOP POLLUTED RUNOFF!

Remember, clean water is important to all of us. It provides recreation, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our State. All of us benefit, and all of us have a role in keeping our lakes, rivers, and groundwater clean.

Additional Water Quality Resources:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
www.tceq.texas.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Stormwater Website
www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program

Texas Water Explorer
www.texaswaterexplorer.tnc.org



Regulatory agencies and local governments enforce stormwater regulations and monitor water quality for activities that result in discharges to local waterways.

However, stormwater pollution isn't just a government problem. Businesses, industries, and residents are each responsible for a portion of the pollutants deposited by storm-water runoff into local waterways. It takes continuous efforts from everyone to protect the quality of our waters.



FORT BEND COUNTY
STORMWATER QUALITY COALITION

For more information or to report stormwater quality concerns visit us at:
www.txms4.com/fortbend

STORMWATER QUALITY

Protecting Our Local Water Bodies



FORT BEND COUNTY
STORMWATER QUALITY COALITION



> **STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION is a leading cause of water quality problems and the primary reason many of our waters are still considered unfit for swimming and fishing.**
>
> - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

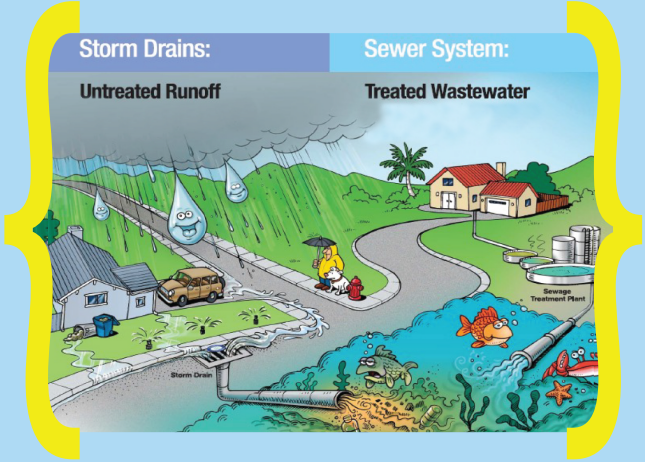
Stormwater runoff is surface water flow from precipitation that does not seep into the ground. The runoff carries potential pollutants from the surrounding landscape and roadways into waterways from culverts, pipes, and ditches.

WHAT MAKES STORMWATER HARMFUL?

When it rains, stormwater flows over streets, fields, lawns, and buildings carrying pollutants such as, fertilizers, litter, oil, pet feces, pesticides, and sediment into rivers, lakes, and streams. These pollutants can harm fish and wildlife populations, impact drinking water supplies, and make recreation areas unsafe and unpleasant.

STORMWATER FACTS

The water we utilize inside of our homes goes to a wastewater facility for purification. However, the stormwater from roofs, streets, and other outdoor areas is discharged untreated directly to our local waterways!



DID YOU KNOW

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to **the third greatest cause of lake deterioration** in the US.

When you wash your car in the driveway, you're washing about **120 gallons** of grime-filled water downstream. The soap, together with the dirt, grease, and grime flows untreated into nearby storm drains that run into lakes and streams.



Leaf "litter" and landscape trash account for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains, causing potential flooding and increasing debris in our waterways.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Stormwater runoff comes from multiple sources throughout a watershed. To make a positive impact in your area, you can:

Dispose Properly

- Compost or bag your leaves and lawn clippings
- Don't blow leaves or lawn clippings into the street
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets

Be Car Smart



- Use a commercial car wash where water is recycled and sent to treatment facilities
- Wash your car on the lawn or gravel
- Dump your soapy bucket in the sink



For Businesses

- Do your part at work to prevent stormwater pollution
- Properly dispose of chemicals and grease

Illegal Dumping



- Do not dump chemicals or other waste materials into storm drains -- it's illegal
- If you see it, report it

Fertilize Efficiently



- Always follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. More isn't better!
- Fertilizing in early fall promotes healthy root systems - leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants

Pick Up After Your Pets



- Clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly
- Pet waste contains bacteria that can contaminate surface water

