

# EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION FOR STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



BMPs – are acceptable practices that can be implemented to protect water quality and promote soil conservation.

## **NEVER DUMP ANYTHING DOWN A STORM DRAIN OR IN DITCHES**

Storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer lines and therefore, stormwater is not treated at the local wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains carry stormwater runoff into nearby creeks, rivers, streams, lakes and even wetlands. Contact the City of Denton for disposal of chemicals or materials, such as paint or motor vehicle fluids.

## **PET WASTE**

Pick up after your pet. Pet waste left on sidewalks or on streets can easily wash into area creeks, rivers, streams, and lakes. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and can make water unsafe to swim or play in as well as cause algae to grow which in turn is harmful to people and pets.

## **CAR MAINTENANCE**

Keep your car and vehicles in good working order. Motor oil and vehicular fluids leaking from cars and trucks contribute to water pollution that kills wildlife and fish. Never pour fuels, motor oil, anti-freeze, brake fluid, transmission fluid, etc., onto the ground surface or into a storm drain. Always recycle motor vehicle fluids or dispose of appropriately with a local waste vendor/recycler. The City of Denton can provide this as a curbside service by scheduling in advance or in person disposal at The Home Chemical Collection facility located at 1527 S. Mayhill Rd., Denton, TX 76208.

## **REMOVE TRASH AND LITTER**

Be a good neighbor and don't allow trash dumpsters and trash receptacles to overflow. Trash and litter have a way of finding its way into storm drains and local water bodies where wildlife can ingest it and die or become entangled. Always pick up litter in the vicinity of your business property and keep receptacles covered or closed.

## **WASH CARS AND VEHICLES AT A COMMERCIAL CAR WASH**

When you wash your car on a driveway or street, the dirt, grease, and soap can wash straight into a nearby storm drain and directly to waterways. These chemicals can kill fish and wildlife. Using a commercial car wash allows the wash and rinse waters to be treated at a local wastewater treatment plant. If you do wash your vehicle at home, do it on grassy or gravel areas where the wash water can seep into the ground surface.

## **USE FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES SPARINGLY**

Always sweep up excess fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks after application as it can be carried away by rain runoff into creeks, rivers, streams and lakes. Fertilizers are high in nutrients and can cause excessive algal growth that depletes oxygen for aquatic ecosystems. Most pesticides are toxic to aquatic animals so use these sparingly.

## **COMPOST YARD WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS**

Grass clippings can contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus to waterways increasing the uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds. Algae blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. Sweep up any grass clippings from driveways and sidewalks and mulch any leaves by running the lawnmower over them. This adds nutrients back to the lawn and minimizes the need for additional fertilizers.

## **VEGETATE BARE SPOTS AND TERRACE SLOPES**

Cover bare spots with mulch and vegetation to prevent soil erosion from wind and rain. Rain can cause exposed soil to wash into storm drains and into waterways leaving the water murky and oxygen depleted. Plant ground cover or new grass/sod to prevent erosion. Terrace sloped areas to help slow down water as it moves across your property.

## **DIRECT DOWNSPOUTS AWAY FROM PAVED SURFACES AND SLOW WATER DOWN**

Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater falling from roofs to prevent it from hitting paved areas and carrying pollution into storm drains. Divert gutter downspouts onto vegetated or grassy areas to slow down runoff and allow it to soak into soil.

## **REPORTING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To report a potential stormwater issue originating from UNT property, send an email to [stormwater@unt.edu](mailto:stormwater@unt.edu); include the location, the issue, and contact information for follow-up. Photos are helpful, but not necessary. To review UNT's Stormwater Management Plan or Annual Report please go to our web-site at: <https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/Environmental-Risk/Environmental/Water>

Sources: EPA.gov; tceq.texas.gov; nctcog.org; thinkblue.org (City of San Diego); University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture