

Pollution costs us all. . . And there are fines.

Hazardous Waste Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties Texas Water Code, Section 7.162

- A person who intentionally or knowingly transports, stores or disposes any hazardous waste, without a manifest or without all required permits.
- Individuals—imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a \$1,000 fine to \$50,000 fine.
- Corporations--\$1,000 to \$250,000 fine.

Used Oil Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties Texas Water Code, Section 7.176

- A person intentionally discharges used oil or knowingly disposes of otherwise handles any used oil within the State of Texas in violation of the rules for used oil.
- Each day is a separate violation. Fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$50,000 and/or imprisonment.

Water Pollution Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- A person intentionally or knowingly discharges or permits the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution without strict compliance with all required permits or other authorization. Water in the state includes drainage ditches, and storm water sewers.
- Each day is a separate violation.
- Imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine up to \$100,000.

Endangerment Criminal Offense and Penalty Texas Water Code, sections 7.152-4

- Individual: Imprisonment up to ten years and/or a fine up to \$500,000

- Corporation: Fine up to \$250,000 Local and State Administrative and Civil Penalties for Non-Compliance with Storm Water Laws and Regulations
- Harris County's local Regulations—up to \$1,000 per day per violation
- City of Houston's Local Ordinances—Maximum of \$2,000 per day per violation
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.052 – up to \$10,000 per day per violation
- Texas Water Code, Section 7.102 – up to \$25,000 per day per violation

Clean waterways start with you. . . Be part of the program!



For more information about local storm water quality programs visit www.CleanWaterways.org or call Harris County at (713) 290-3000.

Two signs that you support a cleaner community.



Adopt-A-County Mile Program



Storm Water Inlet Marking Program



Clean waterways start here.

How you can keep our waterways and roadways clean.

Clean waterways start here. Nothing belongs down our storm drains except rainwater.



Here in Harris County, we are constantly reminded of flooding with each tropical storm that approaches our area. The good news is that we can all help keep our waterways clean by making sure nothing goes down the storm drains except rainwater. You see, everything that goes down our storm drains ends up in Galveston Bay.

Trash such as napkins, burger wrappers, and plastic bottles adds to our growing

pollution problem. If you throw that small piece of paper out of your car, you are contributing to the trash that ends up in our bayous, on our beaches and ultimately in Galveston Bay.

Harris County needs your help to keep our waterways clean. Read on to see how you can become part of the solution.

Be part of the pollution solution.

Many of the pollution in area creeks and bayous comes from common, every-day materials, such as household chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, used motor oil and antifreeze as well as litter. These substances run off into storm drain inlets by rainwater from our streets, yards, driveways and parking lots.

So be a part of the solution and get your family and neighbors to pitch in.

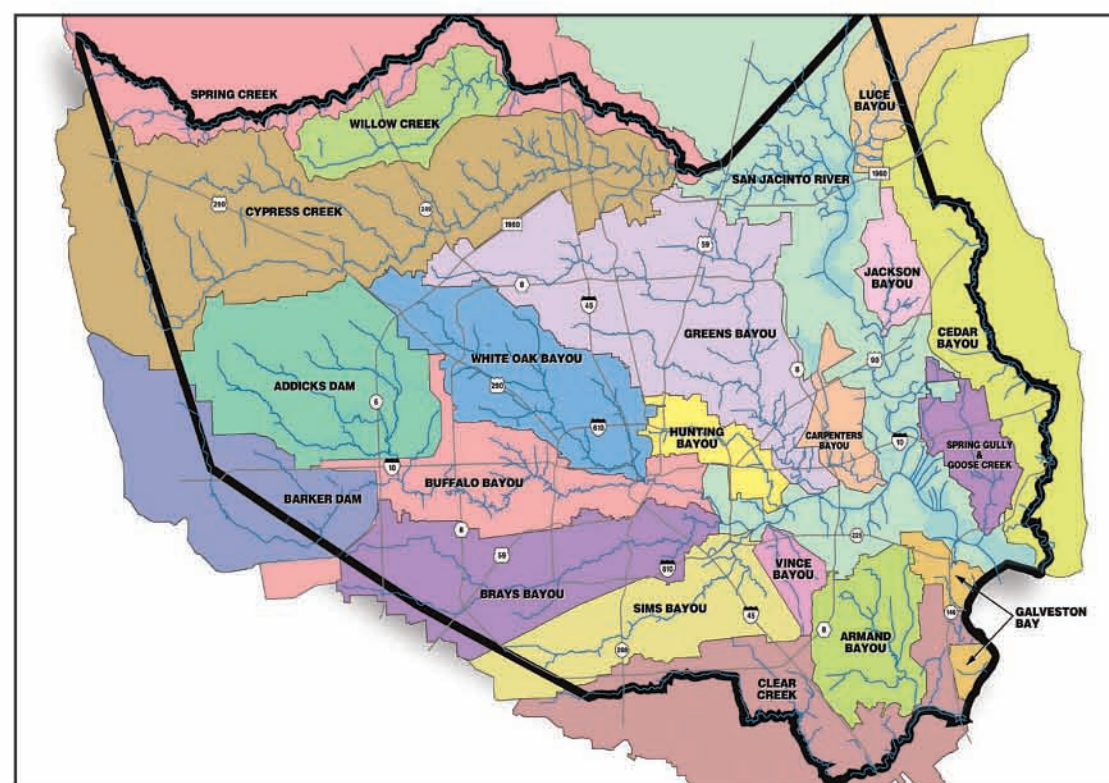
- Pick up after your pets and properly dispose of their waste in the trash.
- Never pour pesticides, household paints, chemicals or motor oil on the ground or down a storm drain.
- Wash your vehicle on your lawn instead of your driveway or street.
- Learn how you can properly dispose of all Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) by dropping it off at registered HHW facility, One-day Collection events, or request the HazMobile to come to your neighborhood. For more details log on to our website at www.CleanWaterways.org.
- If you see someone dumping pollutants into a storm drain, report it! City of Houston residents can call 311, Harris County residents can call (713) 290-2831. You may remain anonymous.
- Visit: www.CleanWaterways.org for more ideas about how you and your family can keep our county clean.

Did you know that storm water goes directly into our waterways?

Water that flows into our storm water drainage system sweeps along all the trash and pollutants in its path, then goes directly into our bayous, rivers, and ultimately into Galveston Bay.

Storm water is water from rain that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns. As it flows, this runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter and other potential pollutants. You don't need a heavy rainstorm to send pollutants rushing toward bayous, lakes, and Galveston Bay.

Storm drains efficiently move runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water. Look at the map to the right to locate your watershed and learn how you can protect it by visiting our web site at www.CleanWaterways.org



One of Harris County's most popular endeavors, Storm Water Inlet Marking Program, or SWIM, is effective in sending out the message that storm drains and trash don't mix. Our blue markers bear the

message "No Dumping, Flows to Galveston Bay".

So How Can You Get These Markers?
The program is free and is open to any

individual, group, or community that would like to participate in helping us reach our goal: marking every storm drain in Harris County in order to prevent pollution from entering our local waterways.

Request your SWIM Kit Today

1. Go to the SWIM section of our web site: www.CleanWaterways.org/swim/
2. Fill out a SWIM project proposal form.
3. Submit by clicking on the "submit button".
4. A representative from the Harris County Watershed Protection Group will contact you.

Gather your friends and neighbors to help you mark the storm drains in your neighborhood.



This is your sign that you want cleaner roadways.

Tired of looking at litter along our roadways? Like the idea of making our community

cleaner while saving taxpayer dollars? Do you have a drive to see your name on your favorite stretch of roadway? Then it's time you become part of Adopt-A-County Mile Program.

Adopt-A-County Mile is a fun opportunity for you, as an individual, or your business, civic club, organization or public agency to pitch in and help make things beautiful, while earning prominent recognition for your efforts. And you can count on us for training, supplies and plenty of public appreciation!

To find out how to reserve your stretch of roadway, call (713) 290-3000 or send in this form.

(Complete, detach at the dotted line, and mail this form)

Please sign up our organization to participate in the Harris County Adopt-A-County Mile Program

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Title: _____

Telephone: _____
(Home Phone) (Cell Phone)

E-mail Address: _____

Desired area to be adopted: _____

Please send this form to Harris County Watershed Protection Group, Adopt-A-County Mile Program, 9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 305, Houston, TX 77092. A representative will contact you after receiving this form.

The Best and Easiest Ways to dispose of HHW.

Substances such as paint, pesticides, old cleaning products and old motor oil are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW) because they are toxic to the environment and need to be handled with care. How do you get rid of them safely? Here are some ideas:

Don't buy them in the first place. Think about the job at hand. Read product labels. Check into less toxic alternatives (Visit our website for printable recipes for alternatives hazardous household products). Buy only what you will use.

Follow the package instructions for safe disposal. Contact the manufacturer if no instructions are provided. Take it to one of our HHW collection events or your city's HHW collection site for proper disposal.

Make plans to attend one of our One Day Collection Events.

Visit us at www.CleanWaterways.org for dates and locations of our next One-Day Collection events or call us at 713-290-3000.

Contact us for help. We understand that HHW disposal poses a special problem for residents. That is why we hold One Day Collection events throughout the county for Harris County residents. We also provide HHW vouchers for unincorporated Harris County residents to use at one of the two permanent collection sites within the City of Houston or one in The Woodlands in Montgomery County. Call us at 713-290-3000 for additional information.