

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

### Hazardous Waste Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- Texas Water Code, Section 7.162
- A person intentionally or knowingly transports, stores or disposes of any hazardous waste without a manifest or without all required permits
- Individuals - imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a \$1,000 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 or 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 up to five years

### Water Pollution Criminal Offenses and Penalties

- Texas Water Code, Section 7.145
- 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
- Imprisonment up to 10 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 Regulation - 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.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org) or call (713) 290-3000.



For more detailed information on recycling and proper disposal of household hazardous waste look for the "Houston-Galveston Regional Recycling and Conservation Guide" that will be in the Houston Chronicle on Sunday, April 22nd.

# Clean waterways start here.



## Storm drains are built to carry rainwater, not waste.

If you've lived in the Houston area for long, you've seen the storm drains in your neighborhood that are there to help water flow away from your home during a heavy rainfall. But did you know the **water that flows into those drains is not treated?** It flows directly into our waterways and ultimately, Galveston Bay. That's why it is so important for all of us to keep storm drains clean and not contaminate them with possible pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, food wrappers or automobile by-products. Harris County is here to make it easier for you to help!!

### Do you know your watershed?

A watershed is a land area that ultimately drains rainfall runoff to a common outlet point – typically a body of water. There are 22 major watersheds of all shapes and sizes in Harris County and each has its own boundaries. Can you find yours on this map?



### How you can help—The Top 10 Do's.

1. Always remember that what goes down the storm drain ends up in our waterways with **NO TREATMENT.**



2. Throw ALL trash such as food wrappers, paper cups, cigarette butts, plastic bags or yard clippings in the garbage can. Storm drains are NOT garbage cans!

3. Pick up after your pets and properly dispose of their waste in the trash.

4. Never pour pesticides, household paints, chemicals or motor oil on the ground or down a storm drain.



5. Properly dispose of ALL Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) by dropping it off at a registered HHW Facility, One-Day Collection Event, or request the HazMobile to come to your neighborhood. For more details log on to our website.

6. Carefully read the labels displayed on the back of fertilizer bags and only use the recommended amount of the product. Also, use natural products whenever possible.

7. Wash your vehicle on your lawn instead of your driveway or street. Don't worry—it won't hurt your lawn.

8. Get your neighbors or favorite organizations involved to host a free Yard Wise class, participate in the Storm Water Inlet Marking Program (SWIM), or help pick up litter through Harris County's Adopt-A-County-Mile Program.

9. If you see someone dumping pollutants into a storm drain, report it! City of Houston residents call 311; Harris County residents call (713) 920-2831. *You may remain anonymous.*

10. Visit our website at [www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org) or call (713) 290-3000 to see what community projects you can get involved with to help with this issue.

### Did you know?

- The average home generates 15 pounds of hazardous waste materials annually.
- Even though yard trimmings and soil are natural debris, when they are washed into our watersheds, they can ruin the natural balance of the ocean and harm fish.
- Our landfills where trash goes are rapidly filling up, so everyone should try to recycle whenever possible.



### Make your yard "Greener" Sign up for free Yard Wise Seminar

Want to have a great looking yard by learning about "natural" gardening or landscaping that requires less watering? Then the Watershed Protection Group's free Yard Wise Seminars are for you. This year, topics include: Backyard Composting, Correct Application of Lawn Chemicals, "Don't Bag It" Plan, Integrated Pest Management, Less Toxic Alternatives, Mulching and Grass Cycling and Vermi-Composting. To find out more log on to our website.



### Round up your Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) The Hazmobile is coming to your neighborhood.



Harris County wants you and your neighbors to be able to dispose of your household hazardous waste more frequently and easily. So we've put together a team of trailers that we utilize to conduct small neighborhood events. These trailers are known as the HazMobile. The HazMobile is used to collect household items such as lawn and garden chemicals, paint products, or automotive by-products

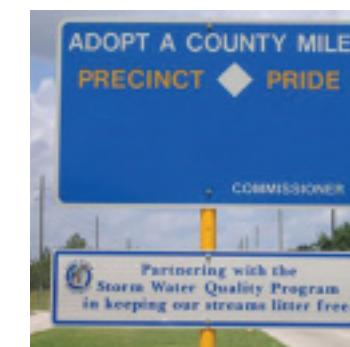


and safely transport them to a registered HHW facility for proper disposal. This is a FREE service to Harris County residents. Log on to our

website to find out how you can pitch in and reserve the HazMobile for your neighborhood!

### Help Make Harris County Litter Free!

We need your help to keep the roadways of Harris County LITTER FREE! It's simple. All you have to do is adopt a roadway in your community. You can help Harris County further the cause of litter prevention by taking part in the Adopt-A-County-Mile (AACM) Program. This is an opportunity to truly support YOUR community. The AACM Program provides individuals, families, businesses, organizations and public agencies with a unique way to gain prominent recognition while beautifying the environment within their own communities. Participants foster community pride and save taxpayer dollars, just by collecting roadside litter. Contact your AACM Coordinator for more details.



**Precinct 1** Commissioner El Franco Lee  
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Houston, TX 77054  
(713) 991-6881

**Precinct 2** Commissioner Sylvia Garcia  
3100 Federal Rd.  
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(713) 455-0062

**Precinct 4** Commissioner Jerry Eversole  
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Spring, TX 77373  
(281) 353-8424

### The word on the street – Some thoughts from 4th graders



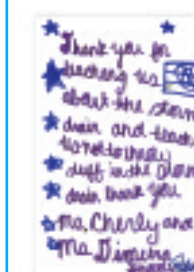
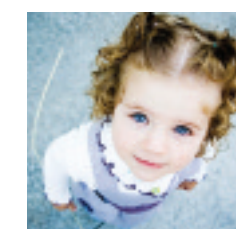
"I couldn't believe how many household hazardous wastes there were."

*Nicholas*



"I learned a lot and now I make sure there is nothing near the storm drain to harm our environment and cause flooding or even the death of creatures of all kinds."

*Katy*



"And I promise to keep water clean and not throw anything into a storm drain."

*Chris*

