



STORMWATER OUTREACH & EDUCATION

This brochure explains what stormwater is & how pollution travels downstream & into waterways.

What Is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain or melting snow that flows over land & hard surfaces like streets, rooftops, & parking lots. Unlike natural areas where water soaks into the ground, this runoff often travels untreated into storm drains & nearby waterways—carrying pollutants like oil, trash, & chemicals along the way

Why Stormwater Matters

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in cities & towns. When stormwater carries harmful substances into our waterways, it can:

- Damage aquatic habitats & wildlife
- Contaminate drinking water sources
- Increase flooding & erosion
- Make lakes & rivers unsafe for swimming & fishing

Clean water is essential for healthy communities—& protecting it starts with how we manage stormwater.

TIPS

- **Limit fertilizer & pesticide use-** Excess chemicals wash into storm drains & harm ecosystems.



- **Plant native trees & shrubs-** They absorb rainwater & reduce runoff naturally.

Discover how native plants & smart landscaping can help reduce stormwater runoff, conserve water, & beautify your yard—all while saving time & money.

Visit TXSmartScape.com for expert tips, plant guides, design tools, & free local workshops

TIPS

- **Sweep driveways instead of hosing them down-** Keeps debris & pollutants out of stormwater systems.
- **Never dump anything down storm drains-** They're for rainwater only—not trash, oil, or chemicals.
- **Dispose of household hazardous waste properly-** Check your local drop-off sites for safe disposal.

-OR-

- Call **972-440-2040** to schedule a porch pick-up for your Household Hazardous Waste



TIPS

- **Wash your car on the grass or at a commercial car wash-** Prevent soap & grime from entering storm drains.
- **Use biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners-** Safer for waterways & aquatic life.
- **Pick up pet waste-** It contains harmful bacteria that can pollute local streams.
- **Maintain your septic system-** Prevent leaks that can contaminate groundwater & runoff.
- **Install a rain barrel or rain garden-** Capture runoff & beautify your yard at the same time.



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