



# “The Dirty Dozen”

## 12 Tips to Prevent Storm Water Pollution



Remember to turn off sprinklers when it rains to avoid water runoff.



Bag pet waste — do not just leave it there. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.



Do not apply pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides before it rains. The rain will not help to soak these chemicals into the ground; it will only help create polluted runoff into local creeks.



Select native and adapted plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides. Learn more about native and adapted plants at [txsmartscape.com](http://txsmartscape.com).



Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in yard.



While changing a vehicles oil, do not dump it on the ground or in the storm drain; dispose of it properly at an oil-recycling center.



Check vehicles, boats or motorcycles for leaks. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material, do not rinse the spills into the storm drain.



Do not get rid of grass clippings and other yard waste by dumping it or sweeping it into the storm drain; this will cause depleted oxygen for aquatic life. Instead, compost yard waste.



When washing vehicles at home, wash with only water or use biodegradable soap and wash it on a lawn or other unpaved surface; better yet take the vehicle to a professional car wash.



Do not get rid of old or unused paint by throwing it down the storm drain; dispose of paint and other household hazardous waste at recycling facilities.



Do not pump pool water into the storm drain — pool chemicals can be hazardous to creek habitats. Whenever possible, drain pool water into the sanitary sewer system where it can be treated.



Do not mess with Texas. Throw litter away in a garbage can, not out the window. Recycle what can be recycled.

