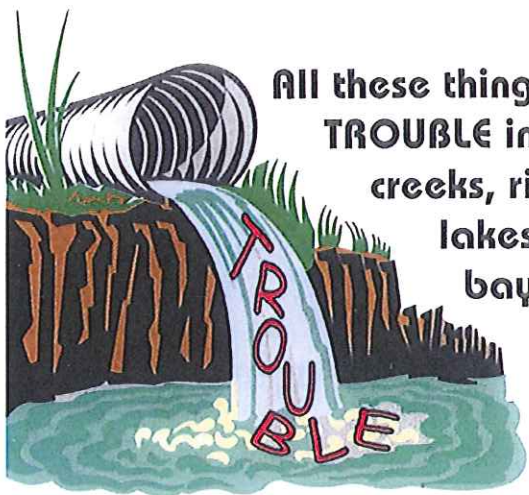


Where does pollution come from?

- Oil from our cars
- Soaps from washing our cars
- Fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide from our lawns
- Sediment from erosion
- Toxins from illegal dumping into street drains
- Leaves and grass clippings from our lawns



All these things spell **TROUBLE** in our creeks, rivers, lakes and bayous!



Report environmental complaints to your local municipality, local water officials, or to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) tollfree at:

1.888.777.3186

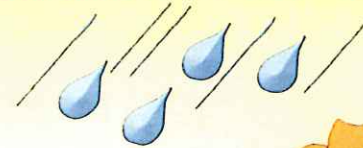
www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/complaints



1-281-316-3700

It's a **FACT:**

Our streets can contribute to pollution in our creeks!



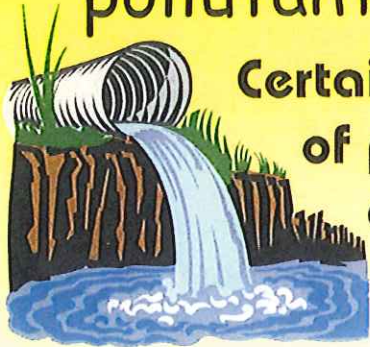
Rain washes pollution off our streets and driveways and into storm drains.

This water does not pass through a treatment plant like water from your sink or bathroom. Instead, it flows untreated into small creeks and then into larger ones. Eventually, it reaches our rivers, lakes and bays.



**Pollution flows
from streets
to creeks!**

What do pollutants do?



**Certain levels
of pollutants
affect the
water.**

Fish die due to lack of oxygen.

Oxygen is used up during the decomposition of leaves and lawn clippings that are in the water.

Algae blooms also take away oxygen.

They are caused by too much detergent or fertilizer in the water.

Toxic chemicals may kill plants or fish along creeks.

Sediments from loose dirt cloud the water, clog fish gills, cover their breeding areas and smother their eggs.

Fish become harmful to eat when they ingest toxins from oils, cleaners, paints, solvents, herbicides and pesticides.

Pollution leaves the water unfit for contact recreation, causes unpleasant odors, and leaves unsightly conditions!

You can help protect our water



Car care

- Repair any oil, transmission fluid, gasoline, or antifreeze leaks as soon as possible.
- Use absorbent materials (kitty litter or sand) to dry up puddles of oil, gasoline or antifreeze left under vehicles.
- Take used oil and antifreeze to your local service station or oil recycling center for safe disposal or refining.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash. The water drains to a sanitary sewer and not to the street. Or wash your car on the lawn. The grass keeps less detergent from entering creeks.



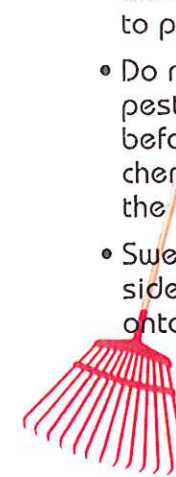
Household products

- Take household chemical waste to the proper collection centers.
- Buy and use non-toxic, biodegradable and recyclable products.
- Wash paintbrushes in a sink that drains to the wastewater sewer system. Do not allow the water to go into the street drain.



Yard care

- Use less water, fertilizer and pesticides by selecting plants and grasses that are well adapted to your area.
- Don't sweep grass clippings into the street; compost your yard waste.
- Use environmentally friendly pesticides and herbicides.
- Apply fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides according to package instructions.
- Do not apply fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides before an expected rain. The chemicals will get washed into the storm drains and creeks.
- Sweep loose fertilizer off sidewalks and driveways onto the lawn.



**Remember: It's harmful
to dump
household
cleaners,
used oil,
lubricants,
grass
clippings, or
leaves into
storm drains.**

