

Did you know that waste from pets can pollute our water?

Every time it rains, pet waste that is left on the ground can be washed into storm drains that carry it directly to our rivers and lakes without being treated.

When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only does it affect water quality, but your health may be at risk.

- Pet waste decays, using up dissolved oxygen and releasing compounds that are harmful to fish and other animals.
- Pet waste may contain bacteria which can cause disease in humans.
- Pet waste contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth, leading to cloudy or green water.



CITY OF HUTTO

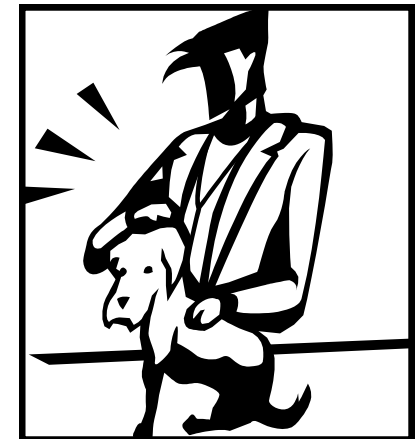
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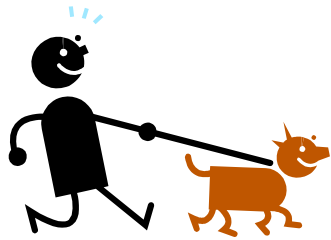


Stormwater Best Management Practices Series

Pet & Lawn Waste



Pet Waste



What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Pick up pet waste from your yard
- Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up pet waste

Dispose of pet waste by:

- Flushing down the toilet
- Throwing away in the trash

Yard Pollutants

How does gardening lead to stormwater pollution?

- Chemicals—fertilizers and pesticides from your yard may be carried into the storm drain. These chemicals can end up in local waters and are harmful to humans and wildlife
- Yard Waste—Clippings can clog a storm drain or, when they reach a waterbody, decompose, depriving wildlife of oxygen
- Sediments—garden soil washed down storm drains harms aquatic life, clogging fish gills and destroying breeding grounds by filling in deep water areas
- Overwatering—excessive watering leads to increased runoff carrying herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and oil from the streets to the storm drain and into local waters. This contamination increases public and environmental health

Solutions



What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers
- Properly store or dispose of unwanted chemicals to avoid seepage into rainwater
- Don't overwater your lawn or garden
- Plant grass or other rapid-growth vegetative covers to prevent soil erosion
- Sweep excess lawn clippings or other yard wastes and dispose of properly
- Don't hose soil or yard clippings into the storm