

Just for Floats!

Did you know that Cigarette filters is the number 1 trash item found on beaches?

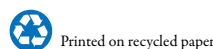
Did you know that the trash most commonly found in municipal landfills is plain old paper?

Did you know that scrap tires are typically used as a supplement to traditional fuel such as coal or wood?

Did you know that the average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in the garage and in storage closets?



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CURRENTS

www.CleanWaterways.org

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Celebrate Earth Day in Harris County



Earth Day is a time to celebrate gains we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. It is also a time to unite around new actions. Earth Day and every day is a time to act and protect the environment. This year, will mark the 38th anniversary of Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated by 20 million people

across America. What started as a national day for the environment recognition has evolved into a worldwide campaign to protect our global environment, and now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Harris County would like to encourage you to join millions of people worldwide who continue working for the environmental protection by taking action- on your own, in your classroom, at work, in your community, or by volunteering. The Harris County Watershed Protection Group has some ideas for you to take action.

- Use pesticides safely, always follow the instructions on label.
- Reduce polluted storm water runoff-pick up after your pet.
- Allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn, don't bag them.
- Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- Take your old computer or other electronics to a local recycling center. This helps keep lead, cadmium, and other substances out of the landfills and our groundwater.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Mark your storm drains

The Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) program is an environmental public education program aimed at raising awareness of the storm water quality issue in Harris County and City of Houston Communities. Request a SWIM kit to receive free markers along with glue and supplies. The marker includes a message to all would-be polluters: "No Dumping, Flows to Galveston Bay". Visit our web site at www.CleanWaterways.org to request a kit.

Adopt-A-County-Mile

The Adopt-A-County-Mile is a fun opportunity for individuals, businesses, civic clubs, organizations or public agencies to pitch in and help make things beautiful. To find out how to reserve your stretch of roadway call us at (713) 290-3000.

Participate in our one day HHW Collection event

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or HHW. Harris County conducts 4 to 6 one day HHW collection events to assist you in disposing of these products safely. See our calendar for upcoming events, visit our web site at CleanWaterways.org or call us at 713-290-3000.

Attend Earth Day Events in April

See our calendar for a list of Earth day events.

Upcoming Events



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Saturday, April 25th

One Day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event
City of Baytown Storage Facility
1200 Lee Drive, Baytown, TX 77520
8 AM to 2 PM only

Saturday, May 30th

HazMobil Collection Event
Paul D. Rushing Park
9114 Katy Hockley Road, Katy, TX 77493
9 AM to 12 Noon only

Earth Day Celebration Events

Saturday, April 25th

Armand Bayou Watershed Festival
Pasadena Rodeo Grounds
10 AM to 4 PM
Family Friendly & Free

Saturday, April 25th

Earth Day Celebration
Challenger Seven Memorial Park
2301 W. Nasa Parkway, Webster, TX 77598
Free activities, food, and games
9:30 AM to 12 Noon

**SCOOP THE POOP
AND KEEP OUR WATER RUNNING CLEAN!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT:
CleanWaterways.org

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Have a Green Lawn this Summer



During the summer months, many homeowners spend countless hours maintaining their lawn. This includes using pesticides to keep weeds and insects out. Unfortunately, many of these pesticides flows into our storm water drainage system which goes directly into our bayous, rivers, and ultimately, into Galveston Bay. The Harris County Watershed Protection Group would like to share ten principles for sound landscaping practices to keep a beautiful lawn while protecting our environment.

- 1. Reduce Waste and Recycle Nutrients**
Leave grass clippings in place to provide nitrogen to the lawn.
- 2. Mow and Prune Responsibly**
Cut your lawn at the highest recommended mower setting leaving it about 1-2 inches.

3. Determine the Need for Fertilizers

If a fertilizer is needed, choose an organic or conventional product that best fits the needs of your plants and soil conditions.



Build Your Own Indoor Compost Bin

1. Drill 1/2 -inch diameter holes in the bottom and sides of a plastic can.
2. Place a brick in the bottom of a larger garbage can, surround the brick with a layer of wood chips or soil, and place a smaller can inside on top of the brick.
3. Wrap insulation around the outer can to keep the compost warm and cover the cans with a lid.

4. Prevent Landscape Pollution

Dispose of oils, paints and other toxic materials in the proper community waste management system and not down storm drains.

5. Choose the Right Plants

Select locally adapted species that requires less water, fertilizers, pruning and pesticides.

6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Correctly identify any pests and the type of problems they may create. Spot treat for problems and don't use a weed and feed lawn product unless your problem is widespread.

7. Use Water Wisely

Choose plants that are locally adapted or drought tolerant. Make sure irrigation systems are adjusted properly and repair any leaks.

8. Attract and Protect Wildlife

Choose plants that can provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Consider a backyard pond to provide water for wildlife.

9. Learn about Your Yard

Have soil tested to determine if nutrients or amendments are needed.

10. Reduce Storm Water Runoff

Slow the rate of runoff and increase soil permeability by adding organic mulch to soil and landscape. 💧

"For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports"

- Sandra Postel, Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity, 2003



Collection Events Offer Safe Disposal Option

Household Hazardous Waste



The Harris County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program offers residents the opportunity to dispose of common household items at no cost to participants. Items collected at the event include: paint, pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, gasoline and other automotive products, pool chemicals, household cleaners, aerosols, batteries, and up to 5 tires.

Certain types of HHW have potential to cause injury to sanitation workers, contaminate septic tanks and local waterways if poured down drains or toilets, and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house.

The Harris County Watershed Protection Group strongly encourages participation in these HHW collection programs rather than discarding dangerous materials in the trash. When HHW is disposed in the trash, it can contaminate landfills and our water sources. The contamination creates higher water treatment costs and affects marine life.

Call the Harris County Watershed Protection Group at 713-290-3000 for the time and location of our next HHW collection event. Also, read product labels for disposal directions to reduce the risk of products exploding, igniting, leaking, mixing with other chemicals, or disposing other hazards on the way to a disposal facility. Even empty containers of HHW can pose hazards because of the residual chemicals that might remain.

When you dispose of HHW materials properly, you are helping us have cleaner water for many generations to come. 💧



Tips for Transporting HHW Material

Household disposal poses a special problem for residents. That is why its so important for residents of unincorporated areas of the County to participate in our One Day Collection events. Below are tips to help you prepare these items for transportation.

- Pack wastes carefully in a box to prevent spillage during transport (be prepared to leave your containers).
- Do not mix chemicals!
- Arrange similar chemicals containers together (e.g., put pesticides together, solvents together, paints together). Please make sure containers are not leaking and lids are tightly sealed. If they are not sealed, place them in a larger container for transport.

For additional tips go to our web site at www.CleanWaterways.org.

