

CITY OF TOMBALL
STORMWATER QUALITY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE NO. 2 FOR PERMIT YEAR 2014
December 18, 2014

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

Ever see someone pour motor oil into a storm drain or in a roadside ditch? Have you seen someone use the nearest storm drain or ditch to dispose of grass clippings with the leaf blower? Did you ever wonder where it all ends up? It flows to Spring Creek or Willow Creek and ultimately Galveston Bay. What you put into the storm drain system flows directly into our bayous and ultimately into Galveston Bay. If storm water gets contaminated, then that's how it stays.

Storm water runoff receives no treatment. Rain is a fact of life in our region, be it a small shower or a hurricane. Urban storm water runoff can be contaminated with pesticides, fertilizers, animal droppings, trash, food wastes, and automotive by-products. These pollutants are part of the urban environment. Storm water runoff that flows over streets, parking lots, construction sites and industrial facilities can carry these pollutants into local bayous, channels and ditches.

In the Tomball area there is one piping system to handle sanitary waste water from bathrooms and sinks and a second system of ditches and pipes to handle rain water that flows from our yards and streets. The sanitary sewer system collects wastewater and sends it to a treatment plant, where the pollutants are removed and the cleaned water then flows to creeks and bayous. In contrast, rain water runoff is not treated before it flows directly to our waterways.

Please only let rain go down the storm drain.

Adapted from materials prepared by the Stormwater Joint Task Force and retrieved from www.cleanwaterways.org