

# Be aware of how you

dispose of household chemicals; special methods are needed.

## Fertilizer Container Disposal

- Cap the empty container or bag, wrap it in newspaper, and put it in the trash.

## Pesticide Container Disposal

- Use the fertilizer disposal method.
- Never pour pesticides into a street gutter or storm drain.
- Never flush pesticides down an indoor drain or toilet.

## Used Motor Oil Disposal

- Do not dispose of oil in the trash. Store the used oil in a clean plastic container labeled "used motor oil".
- Make sure the oil doesn't come in contact with other contaminants, such as window-washing fluids, gasoline, antifreeze, paint or other types of oil or water. Mixing oil with other waste fluids makes it more difficult to recycle.
- Take the oil to the nearest recycling center or household pollutant collection event.
- Never dump motor oil, petroleum products, antifreeze, transmission fluids, engine cleaners or battery acid down storm drains or on the ground.



## Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



## Contact Information:

For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at [stormwater@incog.org](mailto:stormwater@incog.org). For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24-7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/> and submit it electronically to DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

Brochure Rev. February 2020



# A Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Our Water





# Protect Water Quality by Improving Chemical Use at Home

## Fertilizers

### Fertilizer Use Recommendations

- Apply only the recommended amount.
- Sweep driveway and sidewalk overcast back onto the lawn.
- Avoid over-watering that creates runoff.
- Rely on a soil test to show what nutrients the soil needs. Contact the OSU Extension Office at 918-746-3700 for soil test information.

### How to Reduce Fertilizer Use

- Choose plants that resist drought and enhance the growth of other plants.
- Use a mulching mower and cut 1/3 of the height of the grass. Clipped grass adds nutrients back into the soil.
- Compost yard waste and use it on flower beds and gardens.

**Healthy lawns and gardens** enhance appearance and environmental benefits. They provide feeding areas for birds, prevent soil erosion, filter contaminants from rainwater, and absorb many types of airborne pollutants. Plants also produce oxygen, a process that helps clean the air.

## Pesticides

### Pesticide Use Recommendations

- Only apply recommended amounts.
- Label all mixed solutions with solution name, date and use information.
- Do not over-water or apply when rain is in the forecast.
- Do not apply when it is windy.
- Try to use low-toxicity chemicals that are biodegradable.
- Do not pour tank rinse water into the storm sewer; apply to the yard.



### How to Reduce Pesticide Use

- Landscape for low maintenance, and use native plants to aid pest control.
- Attract insect-eating birds and bats to your home. Contact the ODWC at 918-299-2334.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) strategies that rely on biological, cultural and chemical methods.
- For more pest management information, contact the Master Gardener Hotline at 918-746-3701.

## Motor Oil

### Motor Oil Use Recommendations

- Keep your car well maintained. Repair auto fluid leaks immediately.
- Use kitty litter, sawdust or wood chips to soak up oil and put it in the trash.
- Follow handling and disposal methods on container labels.

### How to Reduce Motor Oil Pollution

- Recycle the motor oil you use at home.
- Recycling used oil keeps it from polluting soil and water.
- You can usually recycle used oil filters at the used oil recycling centers.
- For information about used oil recycling, contact the **Metropolitan Environmental Trust (Met)** at [www.metrecycle.com](http://www.metrecycle.com) or call 918-584-0584.



Experts estimate that 40 percent of oil pollution in America's waterways is from used motor oil.

