

Know what you throw

...and where you throw (or pour) it. Various household chemicals require different methods of disposal.

Proper Fertilizer Disposal

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

Proper Pesticide Disposal

- Cap the empty container, wrap it in newspaper, and put it in the trash.
- Never pour pesticides into a street gutter or storm sewer.
- Never flush pesticides down an indoor drain or toilet.

Proper Oil Disposal

- Always dispose of oil safely. Do not dispose of oil in the trash. Store the used oil in a clean plastic container with a very tight lid.
- 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. Any of these could spoil the oil, making 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 web site listed below for more details about proper handling and disposal of household chemicals and wastewater.



Green Country Stormwater Alliance
www.stormwaterok.net

Contact Information

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

www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLsnew/Complaints/onlncompl.htm and submit it electronically to the DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

For more information about local household pollutant collection events, visit www.metrecycle.com or call 918-584-0584.



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A Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Our Water





A Closer Look at

Chemical Use at Home

Fertilizers

Fertilizer Use Recommendations

- Apply only the recommended amount to needed areas, avoid driveways and sidewalks.
- Water the fertilizer after application but do not over-water because that makes polluted runoff.
- Get a soil test. The OSU Extension Service performs soil tests for a minimal charge. The test results show you what nutrients your soil needs so you can purchase the correct type of fertilizer. For more information, contact the OSU Extension Office, 918-746-3707.

How to Reduce Fertilizer Use

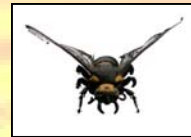
- Choose plants that resist drought and enhance the growth of other plants.
- Use a mulching mower and cut 1/3 of the height of the grass. Clipped grass adds nutrients back into your soil.
- Cut grass more often and only when it is dry. Use sharp blades.
- Compost yard waste and use it on flower beds and gardens.

Caring for your lawn properly can both enhance its appearance and contribute to its environmental benefits. Healthy grass provides feeding ground for birds, who find it a rich source of insects, worms and other foods. Thick grass prevents soil erosion, filters contaminants from rainwater, and absorbs many types of airborne pollutants. Grass also is highly efficient at converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, a process that helps clean the air.

Pesticides

Pesticide Use Recommendations

- Calibrate your sprayer. Too little pesticide is ineffective; too much may damage the environment.
- Label all mixed solutions with solution name, date and use information.
- Do not over-water or apply when rain is in the forecast. Pesticides will wash below the plant roots.
- Do not apply when it is windy.
- Read the product label. Try to use low-toxicity, short-lived chemicals with low leaching potential.
- Treat your animal, home and yard at the same time. Ask your veterinarian about new flea and tick control products for pets. Do not pour rinse water into the storm sewer. After application, apply the tank rinse water to the yard.



How to Reduce Pesticide Use

- Landscape for low maintenance and use native plants to aid pest control.
- Attract birds or bats to your yard. They eat many types of insects including flies and mosquitoes. For more information, contact the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at the Oklahoma Aquarium at 918-299-2334.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to control pests. IPM integrates biological principles, cultural practices and some chemicals in pest control strategies. For more information, contact the Master Gardener Hotline at 918-746-3701.

Motor Oil

Experts estimate that 40 percent of oil pollution in America's waterways is from used oil. Where does the oil come from? Unfortunately, many people who change motor oil dispose of the used oil by either dumping it down the drain or throwing it in the trash.

Motor Oil Use Recommendations

- Keep your car well maintained. Repair oil, transmission and brake leaks immediately. Leaks and spills form toxic puddles and will eventually be washed into storm drains or directly into bodies of water.
- If a spill occurs, do not rinse that area with water. Use kitty litter, sawdust or wood chips to soak up fluid and put it in the trash. Read labels carefully. Follow proper disposal methods.

How to Reduce Motor Oil Use

- Recycle the motor oil you use at home. Motor oil does not wear out—it just gets dirty—so recycling it saves a valuable resource. Recycling used oil keeps it from polluting soil and water. Less energy is required to produce a gallon of re-refined base stock than a base stock from crude oil. Check with local automobile maintenance facilities, waste collectors, and government waste officials to see when and where you can drop off your used oil for recycling.
- Don't forget to drain and recycle used oil filters as well—usually you can drop off the filters at the same collection centers where you deposit used oil.

