

Pollution Prevention in the Home

Arts & Crafts

Artists and hobbyists that work with paints, glues, and clay at home can contribute to water pollution by discharging toxic metals from glaze pigments and clay impurities into the sewer. **Please follow disposal instructions on the container.** Do not dispose of hazardous materials into sinks, drains, toilets, gutters, or storm drains.

Pesticides

Many home gardeners use pesticides at 20 times the rate of commercial farmers. Overuse of these products is not healthy for your garden, our environment, or your wallet! Please use products sparingly. Follow the instructions on the label and avoid applying these products on rainy or windy days. Better yet, use less toxic or organic alternatives. This will help prevent nutrient rich run-off into storm drains and our waterways.

Automobile

Take used motor oil to the City's designated disposal sites. In the event of a spill, sprinkle the area with kitty litter, sawdust, paper, or other absorbent materials to absorb all liquids, sweep into a plastic garbage bag, and take to the disposal facility. If you see someone pouring automotive fluids down a drain or in an area that could wash into a storm drain call Pretreatment, Code Enforcement, or the Police Department.

Mercury

Mercury is an extremely toxic material and when disposed, is classified as an acutely hazardous waste. Treat it with the caution it deserves. Your family's health and the health of the environment depend on your actions. Learn more about mercury on our Mercury Reduction page.

Pools, Spas and Fountains

Please drain a pool, spa or fountain to the sanitary drain. When drained to a street or storm drain, water from pools, spas, and fountains pose a particular threat to aquatic organisms because of the copper and chlorine people have added to the water. Water flowing from a street into storm drains goes straight into local creeks without any treatment. Copper and chlorine can be toxic for aquatic life in creeks and contribute to pollution of Angelina River and Sam Rayburn Reservoir. To prevent water pollution from a pool, spa, or fountains:

- Use natural alternatives to copper containing pool products.
- Clean your filter over a dirt area, not into the street. Filter backwash should go into the sanitary sewer cleanout, not to streets or storm drains. When emptying a pool, flow should be kept to about 10 gallons per minute (or about the flow through a normal garden hose); a larger flow could cause the sewer line to back up.