It stinks and it's easy to step on. But you just can't make yourself pick it up.

It also pollutes your environment.

Here's how it works.

Your dog poops on the grass. That poop contains bacteria that pose a health risk to people. When it rains or storms, the poop gets washed into the streets and flows down the storm drain into area bayous and waterways where people may come into contact with it.

For more information please call the Harris County Watershed Protection Group at 713.290.3000 or visit our website at www.CleanWaterways.org.

CLEAN WATER · CLEAR CHOICE

Clean waterways start here.

Get the scoop: Clean up the poop.

CLEAN WATER · CLEAR CHOICE

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Do your part. Pick up your pet waste and dispose of it properly.

- Clean up after your dog daily.
- Pick up pet waste if rain is in the forecast, even if you don't do it on a regular basis.

- Consider buying a handy pooper scooper to make the task easier.

- Pick up waste when walking your dog.
- Throw pet waste in the trash, using a grocery or newspaper bag and tying it off to seal it. (You may also purchase special biodegradable bags at pet stores.)

- Hire a poop collection service to do the dirty work for you. A quick Web search will turn up local companies that serve all areas of Harris County.
- Flush dog poop down the toilet. Unlike runoff after a rain, sewage from your toilet is treated to destroy dangerous bacteria.
- Bury pet waste in your yard at least five inches deep and away from vegetable gardens, streams, ditches or wells.
- Consider installing an underground pet waste disposal system, also known as a "doggy dooley."
- DON'T leave pet waste on your lawn. Pathogens are dangerous to kids playing in the yard, and they can contaminate anything edible growing in your garden.
- DON'T add pet waste to your compost. The compost won't generate enough heat to kill the pathogens.

- DON'T leave pet waste near a curb. It's bad manners, and it can get washed into local waterways through the storm drain.

Find a system that works for you and start scooping your dog's poop!