Fertilizer and lawn chemical runoff contributes to water pollution in Harris County.

Everything that washes off your lawn goes down a storm drain and directly into a local body of water.

Applying too much fertilizer to your lawn is like pouring chemicals directly into an area bayou or stream.

Lawn chemical runoff contains pollutants that may contaminate drinking water supplies and are toxic to humans and aquatic organisms.

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.

Start a grass roots movement Don't over-fertilize

CLEAN WATER · CLEAR CHOICE ·

Clean waterways start here.

Here's what you can do to protect your area waterways.

- Use the correct amount of fertilizer. More isn't better.
- Follow fertilizer package instructions or have your soil tested.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly.
- Work with your lawn care service to make sure they "do the right thing."
- Bag your lawn waste and leave it on the curb for pickup.
- Mow the top 1/3 of your grass and leave the clippings on your lawn. Your lawn will require less water and fertilizer.

- Consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods.
- Make your own compost using yard waste or use a commercially available variety. Mixing compost with your soil means you'll need less chemical fertilizer.
- Sweep up clippings and fertilizer from paved surfaces and dispose of them properly.

- Rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street and gutter.
- Keep soil covered with vegetation or mulch to control erosion.

- DON'T overwater after fertilizing.
- DON'T fertilize right before it rains.
- DON'T use fertilizer or mulch made with manure.