

# Know what you throw

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

## Fertilizer Container Disposal

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

## Pesticide Container 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.

## Used Motor Oil Disposal

- Always dispose of oil safely. 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 web site listed below for more information on proper handling and disposal of household chemicals and wastes that could end up in stormwater runoff..



**Green Country Stormwater Alliance**  
[www.stormwaterok.net](http://www.stormwaterok.net)

### Contact Information

For information about the 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 [www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html](http://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/onlncmpl.htm](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLsnew/Complaints/onlncmpl.htm) and submit it electronically to the DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

**For more information about household pollutant disposal options, visit [www.metrecycle.com](http://www.metrecycle.com) or call 918-584-0584.**



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## 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.
- Cut grass more often and only when it is dry. Use sharp blades.
- 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.
- Read the product safety label.
- Try to use low-toxicity, short-lived chemicals with low leaching potential.
- Do not pour tank rinse water into the storm sewer; apply the rinse water 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 to control pests. IPM uses combined 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 oil, transmission and brake leaks immediately.
- Do not rinse oil spills with water. Use kitty litter, sawdust or wood chips to soak up oil and put it in the trash.
- Follow handling and disposal methods on label.

### How to Reduce Motor Oil Pollution

- Recycle the motor oil you use at home.
- Recycling used oil keeps it from polluting soil and water and requires less energy to produce fresh oil than from crude.
- 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 oil.

