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No Waste Here!

The TCEQ has prepared instructional materials for groups wanting to mark their community storm drains to keep them free of debris.

To remind residents that storm drains are not for dumping, many communities are placing pollution prevention messages directly on curbs and inlets.

Creative slogans and clever graphics are effective ways of communicating water quality messages. Groups armed with plastic stencils or permanent plaques are strategically placing cautionary slogans such as:

- Flows to Bay
- No Dumping: Drains to Water Source
- You Dump it, You Drink It

The markings serve as a warning that city storm drains do not empty into water treatment facilities. And that pollutants washing into storm drains can wind up in the nearest creek, lake, or river. This affects the health of fish and wildlife, and makes it more difficult to produce safe drinking water.

Typical pollutants range from pesticides and fertilizers to motor oil and household paint. Even animal waste, grass clippings, and leaves that wash down a storm drain have an impact on water quality.

Fort Worth, Irving, Garland, San Antonio, and El Paso are some of the municipalities using their Web sites to encourage storm drain marking. Many neighborhood associations, Scout troops, and church groups have volunteered for the projects.

The TCEQ's [Storm Drain Marking: Preventing Water Pollution in Your Community \(GI-212\)](#) covers many aspects of conducting a campaign to safeguard storm water runoff, including sample public service announcements.

The booklet also is available for [ordering](#).

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