

# WHAT CAN I DO?

- Proper pesticide use begins with an accurate diagnosis of the problem. Consult with County Extension agents or local nurserymen. Then wait for a calm day without anticipated rainfall for application.
- Choose the most effective but least toxic product and buy only the quantity you need. Pesticides are concentrated and when diluted according to instructions, a little goes a long way. If you must use chemicals, follow the directions and either store the remainder or share with a neighbor. Also, don't rule out natural predators such as ladybugs and sow bugs.
- Wash your car on the lawn using low or no phosphate cleaners. You'll water the lawn while washing the car. You can also go to a commercial car wash — they recycle their water to save money.
- Properly dispose of chemicals you use in your home. Every chemical you buy has the potential to pollute the environment if disposed of improperly.
- Keep your car in good repair and check regularly for fluid leaks. Capture used automotive fluids and take them to a recycling site. Clean up spills immediately with absorbent material such as cat litter.
- Visit the Keep Corinth Beautiful website to volunteer for various clean-up projects sponsored in the spring and fall.

# EXAMINING THE CONSEQUENCES

## What are the consequences of ignoring pollution-causing activities?

The City may have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to construct treatment facilities to control storm water pollution. Corinth's solution for nonpoint source pollution is prevention rather than costly treatment. Take action to prevent pollution from entering the storm drain systems so it doesn't enter the City's waterways.



City of Corinth  
Public Works Department  
3300 Corinth Parkway  
Corinth, Texas 76208  
940-498-7501

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# PROTECTING OUR WATER

Our Most Important Resource



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# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: REDUCE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

## What is nonpoint source pollution?

Most people think water pollution comes from a specific source, a type of pollution known as “point source pollution”. Although, because of laws passed in the 1970s, most of those sources of pollution have cleaned up their act. Today, the biggest source of pollution is us — you and me! This type of pollution is known as “nonpoint source pollution” because it can’t be traced to one single source; so, we can’t tell how much pollution is coming from where.

Types of nonpoint pollution include used oil poured into storm drains, soil washed from construction sites, grease from restaurants, or fertilizer and pesticides washed off your lawn. These storm drains lead directly to our creeks, rivers and lakes and have the potential to negatively impact drinking water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife.

## Let’s look at the source of the pollutants found in Corinth’s waters...

### Sediment

Soil particles eroded from the land are washed into streams, creeks and lakes and settle out. Sediment can clog stream channels and fill ponds and lakes. It prevents sunlight from reaching aquatic plants, clogs fish gills and smothers fish spawning areas.

### Parking Lot Runoff

Runoff from parking lots flows over impermeable surfaces, picking up dirt, dust, rubber and metal deposits, as well as antifreeze and engine oil that has dripped onto the pavement.

### Trash

Discarded cups, plastic bags and cigarette butts are examples of the unsightly floatables swept up into the runoff flow and carried into our creeks, streams, and lakes.

## Pesticides and Fertilizers

Excess application of fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides supports the false belief—“If a little bit does good, a lot will do better.” This is not true and the excess will likely end up in our lakes.

## Pet Waste

Animal waste upsets the nutrient balance in the storm water systems, causing a surge in fecal coliform, a bacteria from warm blooded animals. This type of pollution may also cause oxygen depletion and stress fish to the point of death.



## Car Washing

Cleaning detergents contain phosphates. When phosphates empty into streams they can cause algae to grow out of control. Phosphates also trigger bacterial growth that uses up valuable oxygen

needed to sustain plant and animal life.

## Oil Leaks

It has been estimated that every three weeks, more oil is deposited on driveways and streets in the United States than the Exxon Valdez spilled in Alaska.



## What Can I Do?

Your impact as an individual is much greater than you might expect. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 50—80 percent of water pollution comes from nonpoint sources. Become a part of the pollution solution!

- Start a compost pile. The resulting compost adds nutrients, holds moisture, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and improves soil texture.
- Use a pooper-scooper when out for a walk and dispose of the waste with your trash.
- Use an oil pan to catch leaking or used oil. Check the Keep Corinth Beautiful website to see when the next hazardous waste collection event will take place.

- Read and follow fertilizer instructions. Don't overdose your lawn and garden. Proper application technique includes checking the weather forecast for rain, following application rates, setting your fertilizer spreaders at the manufacturers prescribed setting and using slow release fertilizers to reduce the need for frequent application.



- Use a mulching mower to put grass clippings back into your lawn. Scheduled mowing will save you clean-up time and dramatically reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.



- Use drop spreaders instead of broadcast type spreaders. If you get fertilizer on the sidewalks or street, sweep it up immediately. Water your lawn to dissolve fertilizers and allow them to gently soak into the root zone.