

# A Guide to the Proper Use of Our Storm Sewer



Our storm sewer system is made up of a series of ditches, culverts, inlets, and underground pipes which collect rain water runoff and transfers it to our streams, bayous, and ultimately to Galveston Bay. By collecting and managing the rainwater runoff, our storm sewer system helps to minimize ponding of water in our streets and flooding of our homes.

## Why is it important to keep the storm sewer clean?

Trash and debris that is dumped into our storm sewer system will collect and ultimately cause the pipes to clog, preventing rainwater from draining properly. This will lead to high water in our streets and flooding of our homes. Even natural debris can accumulate in the storm sewer system and cause them to clog. Yard waste is also a main contributor to the silt that fills our ditches, culverts, streams and bayous that prevents them from draining as much rainwater as they once did.

## How harmful is it to dump hazardous products down the storm drain?

Chemicals dumped into our storm sewer system can kill the wildlife that lives in the streams, bayous and Galveston Bay and animals that may come in contact with the contaminated water. These chemicals can also leach into our aquifer and potentially make our drinking water unsafe. Hazardous products can be safely disposed of at the Stella Roberts Recycling Center. For more information on Storm Water Quality, visit [cityofpearland.com/stormwater](http://cityofpearland.com/stormwater)



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## City of Pearland Ordinance No. 181-9



### Section 1-2. Littering

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drop, cast, or deposit on any street, alley, sidewalk, or any yard or premises whether public or private any waste material of any kind including without limitation

cigarette butts, cans, paper, paper containers, bottles, or any other form of waste matter whether solid, hazardous, or special waste.

*An offense under this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for each violation.*

### Section 1-3. Dumping

It shall be unlawful for any person, by his own action or that of his agent, employee, or any person under his control, to cause any garbage, trash, refuse, or other waste matter to be dumped, deposited, or otherwise discharged or disposed of on any street, lot, park, public place, or other area whether publicly or privately owned, except at legally established dumping areas. Waste matter includes, but is not limited to: tires, household furnishings, mattresses, appliances, household hazardous waste, vehicle parts, construction debris, solid waste, special waste, green waste, or any other organic or inorganic waste materials.

*An offense under this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$2,000 for each violation.*

### Section 1-6. Green Waste

Landscape waste and lawn clippings may be accumulated and placed in clear plastic bags for collection and recycling. Tree trimmings, brush, and shrubs placed for collection shall be secured in bundles not to exceed four feet in length, eighteen inches in diameter, or fifty pounds in weight.

*Violation of (this) provision shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Each day that a specific violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.*

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