

Reporting Stormwater Pollution at UTA

Why be concerned about stormwater?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a creek, lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. *Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the bodies of water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.*

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people:

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Debris, such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts, that are washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

What you can do

There are a number of simple things that you can do that will help prevent stormwater pollution on campus:

1. Never dump/pour anything into the storm drains or onto the ground!
2. Do not litter the campus/practice good housekeeping. In addition to preserving the beauty of our campus, it will prevent debris from contaminating water bodies.
3. Do not place materials in outdoor trash receptacles that will leak out, or that will contaminate stormwater that falls into the container. Keep trash containers covered whenever possible.
4. Do not wash or clean anything outdoors, or allow wash water to run outdoors. This includes vehicle washing!
5. Store materials (both liquids and solids) where they will not impact stormwater, or are covered or contained appropriately.
6. Report any illicit dumping or discharges immediately to the Environmental Health and Safety at 817-272-2185 or the Facilities Management Call Center at 817-272-2000. For urgent response or critical impact to our creek UTA Police Dispatch at 817-272-3003.