

Doo The Right Thing Pick Up Pet Waste



There are 1.2 million registered dogs in North Texas. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that the average dog produces $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of waste per day. That's approximately 900,000 lbs. (450 tons) of pet waste produced every day in North Texas. If dog owners do not pick up after their pets, then that pet waste can pollute our local water bodies.

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly, your health and water quality may be at risk.

Bacteria, parasites, and viruses contained in pet waste are a health hazard.

Storm water runoff can pick up pet waste as it washes down storm drains, drainage ditches, and into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. Pet waste that is not picked up can pollute our water.

Pet waste is high in nutrients, which feed the weeds and algae that can choke out our creeks and lakes. The water becomes cloudy and green – unattractive for swimming, boating, and fishing. Excessive nutrients are a major cause of water quality decline.

When pet waste is washed into lakes and streams, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can kill fish and other aquatic life.

Tips for Dealing with Pet Waste



Attach a small bag or pouch to your dog's leash so that you can always carry a supply of baggies.



Be creative in re-using materials for picking up pet droppings! Save plastic bread bags, plastic newspaper sleeves, or plastic produce bags and use them as scooping baggies.



When using a baggie or plastic bag, slip it over your hand like a mitt, pick up the droppings, hold a top corner of the bag with your other hand, and quickly flip it inside-out. Then, dispose of it in a trash can.



Once a week, clean droppings around your yard and either flush them down the toilet, or dispose of them in the trash can. Pet waste composters are available commercially, check them out.

Pledge to Doo the Right Thing!

Take the pledge to pick up your pet's waste by visiting www.burlesontx.com. Click on "Departments," "Environmental Services," and "Stormwater."



Texas SmartScape® Yard Contest

The City of Burleson will host its first Texas SmartScape® yard contest in 2009! The Texas SmartScape® yard contest will recognize residential yards that utilize native or adapted species with low water requirements that need little or no fertilizers and pesticides.

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Prevent Over-Watering



Over-watering wastes water and can cause water pollution.

Over-watering of lawns is not only a water conservation issue, it can also be a source of pollution to our creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Runoff from lawn sprinklers can become polluted by coming into contact with trash, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, leaves, or dirt. The contaminated runoff will flow off residential streets and into storm drain inlets. From there the polluted runoff will move through storm drain pipes, and discharge directly into local water bodies without being cleaned or treated.

Burleson residents can prevent water pollution by using the following tips:

- ✓ Turn sprinklers off when water starts to run off your lawn
- ✓ Make sure sprinklers do not water sidewalks, driveways, or the street.

Remember Burleson Code prohibits landscape irrigation between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The only lawn and landscape watering allowed during these hours will be that done by hand or with soaker hoses. These mandatory conservation measures apply year round to both residential and commercial water customers.

To report a violation regarding lawn irrigation, call code compliance at 817-447-5410 or fill out a form online at www.burlesontx.com.

Yard Contest *continued..*

Burleson residents have through July 31 to get their landscapes in tip-top SmartScape® shape and enter the yard contest. In August, members of Keep Burleson Beautiful will review entries. The first place winner will receive \$100 cash! The second place winner will receive \$75 cash. The third place winner will receive \$25 cash.

Texas SmartScape® is a regional campaign that promotes the use of native and adaptive plants, shrubs, grasses and trees. Whether you want to replace plants that didn't survive the past year, design a whole new landscape, or discover new flowers for your garden, www.txsmartscape.com has the tools to help you succeed, including a searchable database that lists hardy plants by color, shape, amount of sunlight or water needed, and many other categories. The site also provides information on landscape design and maintenance.

To enter the contest, you must submit an entry form and pictures of your yard to the City of Burleson environmental services division, 141 W. Renfro, Burleson, Texas 76028 by July 31. The entry form can be obtained by calling the City of Burleson environmental services division at 817-447-5410 ext. 269 or by downloading the form from the city's web page at www.burlesontx.com (environmental services).

For more information, call the City of Burleson environmental services division at 817-447-5410 ext. 269 or visit www.burlesontx.com. Click on "Departments," "Environmental Services," and "Texas SmartScape."

Garlic Pepper Tea Insecticide Howard Garret (www.dirtdoctor.com)

We can prevent stormwater pollution by properly using herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Always follow the manufacturer's directions when using lawn chemicals. Using organic products is another option to treat your yard. Following is a recipe from Howard Garret's website for an organic insecticide.

In a blender with water, liquefy two bulbs of garlic and two cayenne or habanero peppers. Strain away the solids. Pour the garlic-pepper juice into a one gallon container. Fill the remaining volume with water to make one gallon of concentrate. Shake well before using and add 1/4 cup of the concentrate to each gallon of water in the sprayer. Spray on foliage that is being eaten by insects. Always use plastic containers with loose fitting lids for storage.