Spring/Summer 2014

WATERWORKS

Provided as a public service for our customers and neighbors

FORT BEND COUNTY
Municipal Utility District No. 25

WE HAVE MOVED!

The District relocated our Administrative offices to a new location to better service our residents. The old location has been repurposed for our in-house Operations team. Payments can still be made at the drop box at our previous office, along with the Shell gas station drop-box on the corner of Pheasant Creek Drive and Old Richmond Road and at the new office at:

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25
10347 Clodine Rd, Richmond, Tx 77407

1. Head southwest on Old Richmond Rd.
2. Turn right onto FM 1464 and continue for 1.5 miles
3. Turn right onto Denver Miller Rd. for 486 feet
4. Take the first left onto Clodine Rd. for 0.7 miles
5. Turn right on the driveway marked with the District's sign *(directly behind the Animal Inn)*

Ease of Payment

We now offer a drive through payment window located on the side of the new building as an added convenience to our residents. Simply follow the clearly marked signs in the lot to the payment window and press the red button for service! No need to get wet when it rains when visiting the FBCM25 offices to make payments

COMMUNITY HEARTLINES UPDATE

The District extends a heartfelt "Thank you" to all our residents for ensuring the bi-annual food drive is a huge success. With your support, the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry provides nutritious meals to thousands of families who rely on your generous donations.

The next food drive is scheduled for October, but we can't do it without you! Please give what you can and let's continue to help out families in need!

EAST FORT BEND

HUMAN NEEDS MINISTRY

East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry, Inc.

Thank you "MUD" district for picking up in this blazing hot weather, 262 packages of food for us!!

BILL CHAT LINE

Helpful Hints to Improve Your Bill Paying Experience:

1. Call the office to enroll in E-Notification! Once enrolled, you receive an e-mail notification when the new bill is available for viewing online.
2. You have more options for paying your bill than ever before! Pay Online, Pay by Phone, Pay at the District Office, Place your payment in the drop box located at the District Field Operations office at the Old Richmond Road location or inside the Pheasant Creek Shell Station, Pay your bill at the Fiesta Grocery Store at Hwy. 6 and Bellaire, Enroll in ACH payment option, Pay by Debit or Credit Cards or by Electronic Check.
3. IMPORTANT REMINDER: Residents using bank online payments need to know that the bank cuts a check and sends the payment as a paper check via regular postal mail delivery to our office. Allow up to ten days for delivery if you use online banking services because bank online payments ARE NOT ACH TRANSFERS.
4. The District mails bills monthly. Your Water bill payment is due on the 24th of every month. HOWEVER, if you do not receive your bill, call us! We are happy to send a copy of your bill or you can view your bill online at www.waterdistrict25.com
5. Want a quick way to earn credits to your monthly bill? Participate in one of the Water Conservation Rebate options offered by the District (view options on the District website or call our office for details).

Rainwater Harvesting

What Is Rainwater Harvesting? Rainwater harvesting is the collecting and storing of rainwater. You can collect rainwater from a roof, which is the most common method, and store it in catchment tanks, such as rain barrels.

A Brief History of Rainwater Harvesting

Before there were public water utilities, many American households harvested rainwater. With the development of large, reliable water treatment and distribution systems, the appeal of rainwater harvesting diminished. However, as the environmental and economic costs of providing centralized water escalate, a new interest in rainwater has emerged. The easiest way to begin harvesting rainwater for your home is to use a rain barrel to provide water for irrigating your lawn. Reasons for Harvesting Rainwater

Benefits:

- The water is free.
- Rainwater is better for plants than chemically treated water.
- Rainwater harvesting can help reduce flow to storm water drains and reduce stream pollution.
- Using stored rainwater can reduce utility bills.

Materials and Tools

- 55 gallon polyethylene plastic barrel
- 3/4 inch hose spigot
- 3/4 inch pipe coupling
- Window screen
- Teflon cement
- Water hose (optional)
- Bricks or concrete blocks (optional)
- Drill with 15/16 inch bit
- Saber saw

How to Build a Rain Barrel

Instructions

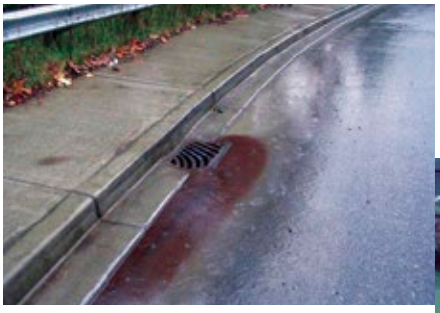
1. Inflow. Use the saber saw to cut a hole in the top of the barrel approximately the same diameter as your gutter downspout.

2. Spigot. Measure 3 to 4 inches from the bottom of the barrel and drill a 15/16 inch hole. Screw the spigot halfway into the barrel, apply some teflon cement to the exposed threads, and continue to twist until tight.

3. Overflow. Measure 3 to 4 inches from the top of the barrel and drill a 15/16 inch hole. Twist in the pipe coupling about one quarter of the way, apply Teflon cement to the exposed threads in the middle portion of the coupling, and continue to screw it in, leaving 1 inch of thread exposed. Connect the hose to the pipe coupling overflow spigot at the top of the barrel. You can run this hose into another barrel or soaker hose.

4. Downspout. Place the barrel directly below the downspout to flow into the hole. The barrel can be placed on blocks or bricks. Cover the hole on the top of the barrel with the window screen, to prevent sticks, rocks, or dirt from getting in.

THE OPERATOR'S CORNER



CALL TOLL FREE
1-866-414-9950 to report
Illegal Storm Sewer Dumping

Lift Stations 9, 10, 11 and 12 are complete and online.

The construction of wastewater treatment plant No. 2 is complete and the plant is now online and operational!

Pools and/or sprinkler systems are required, by District statutes, to have a backflow device installed and, once installed, the device must be inspected by one of the District's operator's to ensure the device meets state regulations and is properly installed.

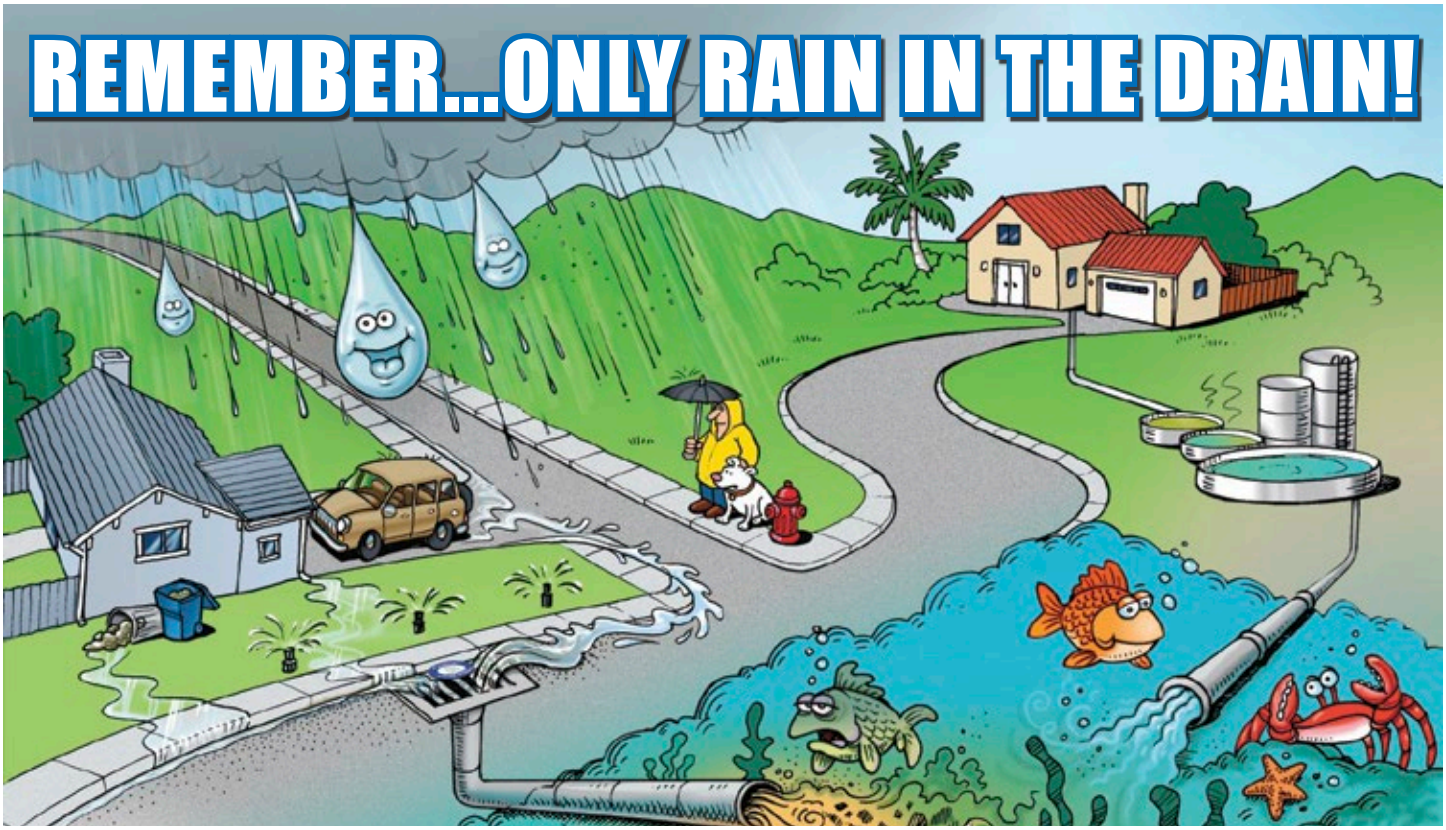
Avoid spraying pesticides or fertilizers within 50 feet of any storm drainage structure (unless stricter limits apply).

Follow all manufacturers' recommendations for mixing, applying, cleaning-up, storage and handling of pesticides and fertilizers.

Speaking of Storm Water Drainage systems, residents play a large role in ensuring the storm drains remain clear. How? Simple ways you can help ensure drains remain clear and functional include:

- Mulch-mow grass. Sweep up and dispose of any grass clippings on paved surfaces. Do Not Dispose of grass clippings in storm drains!
- Avoid broadcast spraying of pesticides that could enter storm water inlets.
- Avoid spraying pesticides or fertilizers within 50 feet of any storm drainage structure (unless stricter limits apply).
- Follow all manufacturers' recommendations for mixing, applying, cleaning-up, storage and handling of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Apply wastewater from rinsing pesticide containers on targeted pests or use it to dilute the next batch.
- Maintain sprinkler systems at rates that do not exceed the infiltration rate of the soil. Moisture sensors are recommended to minimize irrigation.
- Do Not Empty or Dump household paints, engine oil, gasoline or diesel or any other chemicals into storm drains.

Storm drains are created for rainwater and snowmelt drainage. When storm drains are clogged with other items, proper drainage is impaired. Additionally, pollutants discharged directly into storm drains end up in our rivers and streams through the storm drains located on streets and in parking lots. Any pollutants entering these drains flows untreated to the water bodies we use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing, poisoning the supplies needed to sustain life. Do your part; protect the storm drains!



It was about twenty five years ago that most of the "point-source" pollution – the kind where you can readily determine where it came from – was eliminated when industries and wastewater treatment facilities must clean up their discharge to public waters in compliance with the Clean Water Act or face crippling fines. Today, most water pollution comes from far more benign causes…pastures and animal feed lots, construction sites, parking lots, lawns and driveways. Since pollution comes from so many diverse sources that may also vary by season, it is often difficult to determine the exact point of origin.

Perhaps the most startling fact about this sneaky kind of pollution is who causes it… that's you and me, doing things we do every day. We don't set out to pollute…we just do it out of carelessness; not thinking of the bigger picture. But the impacts are very bad. Did you know, for example:

- Seventy six percent of our waterways are too polluted to fish or even swim in safely.
- Forty percent of water pollution is from automotive fluids washed off paved surfaces from normal rainfall.
- Here's an eye-opener…Americans own approximately 75 million dogs. An estimated 40 percent of pet owners don't clean up their animal's "deposits" at home or when out in the neighborhood for a walk. These piles don't just disappear… unscooped poop is washed into storm sewers which drain into local rivers and bays.
- Grass clippings and leaves get swept (or blown) into storm sewers by lawn maintenance crews where they not only clog the sewers, but also carry excess nutrients – fertilizers and herbicides – into the waterways.
- Likewise, sediment from improperly managed construction sites and eroding stream banks can negatively harm aquatic habitats, storm drain infrastructure, and water quality.

Do you know the difference between a storm drain and a sewer? Storm drains collect water from outside our homes and commercial establishments and take it – untreated – directly to streams, creeks and rivers. Sewers, on the other hand, collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before being released back into nature.

Everyone knows that clean water is important to all of us. Not only does it supply a habitat for marine life, but clean water provides recreational opportunities, drinking water for our homes, businesses and manufacturing, as well as providing the method to generate electricity. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that non-point source (or stormwater runoff) pollution ultimately becomes the top pollution problem in the country! Much of it can be prevented with old fashioned common sense!

Please make a commitment to minimize the risk that whatever you do – even by accident – will endanger or have a negative impact on the environment.

SOME OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES THAT REALLY WORK!

When was the last time you took a close look at your irrigation system…from the controller settings to the piping to the sprinkler nozzles and heads? And don't forget the rain sensor or smart controller… is it in good working order? If this task hasn't been accomplished, you could be wasting thousands of gallons of water before the summer is even half over!

According to Dr. David Chalmers, professor emeritus in the soil and crop sciences department at Texas A&M University, "[Turf] is not simply there for people to look at and say 'wow', that looks beautiful,' it actually serves very important functions. Turfgrass stabilizes soil and dust, acts as a biological filter, cools land and buildings, makes safe recreational spaces possible, and provides sociological benefits to communities." These benefits are yet another reason why using our water resources efficiently for lawn and garden makes sense.

Water efficiency enemy number ONE continues to be overwatering! The unnecessary application of water encourages turf to grow shallow roots which cause the grass to stress if water isn't available. Reports based on actual irrigation system evaluations in Montgomery, Harris and Ft. Bend counties have demonstrated that ***at least 90 percent of residents who have sprinkler systems water too often…and 43 percent of that water runs off into the gutter and ultimately into the storm drain. Don't waste drinking water on grass that isn't thirsty!***

There are a number of things that you can do to maximize the use of your irrigation system and avoid wasting water and your money! As the price of this precious commodity continues to go up, it is important that your irrigation system is not needlessly "bubbling" water up from underground or running away through leaky pipes or heads. Maybe an area of the yard stays wetter than any other spot, even if the controller is turned off? Water running off the yard and into the street might signal that a pipe is completely broken.

Here's the bad news about a broken pipe…a typical residential water meter will flow about 13 gallons of water a minute. Do the math…a broken pipe leaking all day while you're away from home could waste over 6,000 gallons (and $$$) down the drain. Leaks…find 'em and fix 'em… FAST.

In addition to adopting a water-efficient watering schedule, set the system controller to complete the watering cycle before 4:00 am to avoid the peak morning demand for other household uses. This is a great time for a technique called **"Cycle and Soak"**. This method applies water slowly so the soil actually can absorb it. Each lawn has different components – soil quality and content – but the key here is to water only as long as it takes to get moisture down into the soil, and that is usually a maximum of 20 minutes. It will take at least 30 minutes for the water to percolate into the soil, so set the timer to come on again after an hour, to deliver a similar amount of water. Technically, you may be watering more often, but the system is delivering the same amount of water…only it is being utilized more efficiently! ♦

- **Replace 10,000 sq. ft. of high water-use landscape with a low water-use landscape and save 40 gallons daily!**
- **Repair at least one pipe leak or broken sprinkler head…saves 20 gallons daily.**
- **Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks – saves 22 gallons each time.**
- **Reduce irrigation run time by 2 minutes – saves 80 gallons each run.**

FORT BEND
COUNTY
Municipal Utility District No. 25
10347 Clodine Road,
Richmond, TX 77407

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NORTH HOUSTON
TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 296

SOURCE: Global Water Security: Intelligence Community Assessment, February 2012

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE EARTH'S WATER IS DISTRIBUTED?

SALT WATER: 97.5%

FRESH WATER: 2.5%

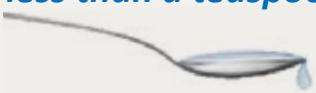
Of the world's fresh water, nearly 70 percent is bound up in permanent ice and snow – in glaciers (including the polar icecaps) and on mountaintops. A bit more is in the atmosphere.

GLACIERS	68.7%
PERMAFROST	0.8%
GROUNDWATER	30.1%
SURFACE & ATMOSPHERIC WATER	0.4%

Only a little more than one-half of 1 percent of that freshwater is available for human use.

If all of the planet's waters were represented by a standard five gallon water cooler bottle, the fresh water available for our use would amount to about a tenth of an ounce...

less than a teaspoon!



SOURCE: UN - Water

Water leaks...find 'em and fix 'em!

Most household water leaks occur in toilets, so you might check them first. In one day, a leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water. That can add up to about $20 per month!

To check for a leaking toilet, first...flush it. Then put enough drops of food coloring in the tank to color the water. Do not flush the toilet again for at least an hour. If the water in the bowl of the toilet shows the coloring, there is a leak.

Water faucets, inside and outside of the house, can also leak undetected. Even the smallest drip can waste up to 20 gallons per day. In most cases, a leaking faucet is caused by a worn washer or "O" ring, and they are not difficult to replace. Once the source of the leak is discovered, fix it! Every day a leak continues, valuable water and money disappear right down the drain!

Remember, the water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow!