

# DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

## PUBLIC EDUCATION, OUTREACH, and INVOLVEMENT in MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING

### Environmental Education and Informational Brochures

The Dyess Environmental Element (7 CES/CEIE) provides Housing Management and Balfour Beatty Communities (BBC) personnel with Environmental Education and Informational brochures to disseminate to new Military Family Housing (MFH) residents upon arrival. These Brochures have been designed to familiarize residents with potential environmental impacts in the Dyess' MFH area. The primary focus of the brochures are to provide information regarding the sources and effects of stormwater pollution and stormwater pollution prevention practices used to mitigate those effects to our valuable west Texas water sources.

The environmental brochures in this handout include the following topic areas:

- Household Hazardous waste
- Lawn Care and Gardening Tips
- Pollution Prevention
- Pet Waste Management
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Water Conservation Practices



Dyess AFB Environmental Section – 7 CES/CEIE

1018 Third St. Bldg. 8020

Dyess AFB, Texas 79607

325-696-5619

Environmental SharePoint Website:

<https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/10625/Dyess/SitePages/Home.aspx>

# Household Hazardous Waste

## How do I get rid of these chemicals?

We've all had to get rid of used motor oil, left over paint and solvents, and fertilizer. Please be sure to recycle or properly dispose of these items at a designated location. Taking them to an environmental recycle center means you are keeping them from accidentally ending up in our waterways. Do NOT throw these materials in the trash. They end up in the landfill and leach into the ground and our groundwater supply.

## What are some household hazardous waste items?

Household hazardous waste are products that contain hazardous chemicals and ingredients requiring special care. These are products that can catch fire, react when mixed with another chemical, are toxic or corrosive and can even explode under certain circumstances. Here is a list of just a few items that need to be disposed of correctly:

- Household Cleaners
- Laundry Products
- Lawn & Garden Products
- Car Products/Used Oil
- Paint Thinners
- Fertilizers
- Fuel
- Turpentine
- Insecticide/Pesticides
- Batteries
- Cooking Oil
- Mercury Thermometers
- Fluorescent Lamps/Bulbs
- Paint/Stains/Solvents
- Pet Products
- Pool Chemicals

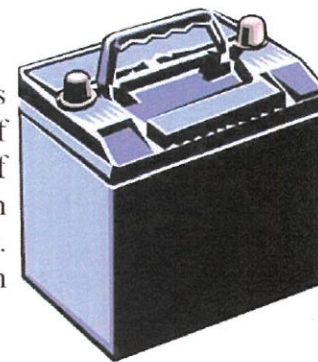
Did you know...

Flushing fuel spills into  
storm sewers pollutes  
Abilene's valuable water  
resources — our creeks  
and lakes.



Did you know...

Most car batteries  
contain 18 lbs. Of  
lead and a gallon of  
sulfuric acid — both  
are hazardous wastes.  
So, store batteries in  
a contained area.



For more information on how and where to dispose of these items, call the 7 CES Environmental Section at 325-696-5619 or the City of Abilene Environmental Recycling Center at 325-672-2209.



# DON'T TRASH YOUR COMMUNITY!

Did you know it's illegal to dump trash and bulky items in front of a home, business, alleyway, around trash bin areas, or on the street?



**GET RID OF YOUR ITEMS  
AT THESE LOCATIONS**

**FOR FREE!**

## ERC

Environmental Recycling  
Center

**Standard Recyclables**  
**Chemicals**

**Tires** (FEES APPLY)

**Oils & Filters**

**Antifreeze**

**Batteries**

**Appliances**

**Paint**

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY**

8AM-4PM

**SATURDAY**

8AM-12PM

**SUNDAY & MONDAY**

CLOSED

**2209 OAK ST.**

## ABC

Abilene Brush Center

**Brush & Yard Waste**  
**Tree Limbs**

**Purchase Mulch Here!**

**Premium Ground**  
\$6/YARD

**Single Grind**  
\$4/YARD OR  
FREE IF SELF-LOADED

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

8AM-5PM

**SATURDAY**

8AM-3PM

**SUNDAY**

CLOSED

**2149 SANDY ST.**

## CCS

Citizens Convenience  
Station

**Mattresses**

**Couches**

**Furniture**

**Wood Fencing**

**Carpet Rolls**

**Bulky Items**

**TVs**

**Electronics**

**WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY**

8AM-3PM

**SUNDAY-TUESDAY**

CLOSED

OPEN TO CITY OF ABILENE RESIDENTS • DRIVER'S LICENSE & CURRENT WATER BILL REQUIRED

Visit [abilenetx.com/SolidWasteServices](http://abilenetx.com/SolidWasteServices) for more information



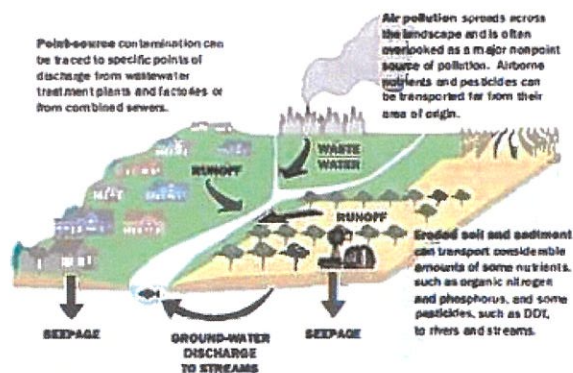
Keep  
Abilene  
Beautiful



# Pollution Prevention

## TOP 10 POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ZERO WASTE TIPS

1. Use reusable containers, shopping bags, water bottles, coffee mugs, silverware, and cloth napkins for meals and snacks.
2. Install EnergyStar appliances and WaterSense products (faucets, shower heads, irrigation controllers, etc.).
3. Purchase products containing recycled content.
4. Purchase products with less packaging or purchase items in bulk to reduce packaging.
5. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and according to the instructions, if they must be used at all.
6. Purchase only the amount of a chemical (paints, cleaners, thinners, etc.) that you need.
7. Dispose of unused household chemicals and chemical waste at authorized collection centers.
8. Recycle electronics, scrap metal, and batteries at authorized collection centers.
9. Plan to run all errands or site visits in one trip, and don't idle your vehicle when parked.
10. Carpool, ride the bus or train, walk, or ride a bike.



### DYESS AIR FORCE BASE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

7 CES/CEIE  
1018 Third St. Bldg. 8020  
Dyess AFB, Texas 79607  
Phone: 325-696-5619



U.S. AIR FORCE

## DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

## POLLUTION PREVENTION



## WHY PREVENT AIR POLLUTION?

Air pollution can cause long-term and short-term health effects locally, as well as globally. Air pollution contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer, which protects the Earth from the sun's UV rays. Carbon dioxide, a product of combustion, provides a "greenhouse" effect, which affects our global climate. Some air pollutants mix with water to form acid rain, which harms trees, soil, rivers, wildlife, buildings, vehicles, and monuments.

## TIPS FOR: HOMES, BUILDINGS AND AT THE OFFICE



- Use natural lighting, if possible, replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs, and turn the lights off when you leave an empty room.
- Use a power strip for your electronics, and turn it off at the end of the day. Many electronics still consume energy when turned off.
- Select the energy saver setting on your computer and printer.
- Use a programmable thermostat to control the temperature to reduce the use of heating and cooling equipment when a building is typically not occupied.
- Use cleaners and paints conservatively to reduce the emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that contribute to ground-level ozone.
- Consider using low-VOC paints and carpets with low VOC adhesives.
- Do not pour grease or oil down drains.



## WHY PREVENT SOIL POLLUTION?

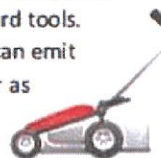
Healthy soils are important for crops, which feed the world. Soil pollution can cause human health impacts for children who play outside and can contribute to the contamination of groundwater aquifers, which are often used for drinking water. Soil pollution prevents plant growth, which can lead to erosion and desertification of our soils. The eroded soil makes our creeks, rivers, lakes, and ponds unhealthy for fish and wildlife.

## TIPS FOR: AT THE STORE AND PURCHASING

- Purchase cleaners that are less toxic. Note that just because it says "green" doesn't necessarily mean it is completely non-toxic, although it could be a step in the right direction. Read the label or Safety Data Sheet to make sure.
- Purchase items made of recycled material and that can be reused or recycled.
- Consider fuel efficiency, alternative fuel capability, electric vehicles, or hybrid vehicles when purchasing a new vehicle.

## TIPS FOR: YARDS AND GROUNDS

- Consider electric-powered mowers, push mowers, or hand-powered yard tools. Lawn mowers and trimmers can emit as much pollution in one hour as driving a car up to 50 miles.
- Mulch or compost yard waste instead of putting it in the trash or burning it.
- Cover areas of exposed soil to reduce runoff.
- Install barriers such as silt fences to prevent soil runoff.



## WHY PREVENT WATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater can pick up debris such as chemicals, dirt, and oils that can flow through a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged, untreated, into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and/or drinking. Polluted groundwater can cause hazards to public health and wildlife through the movement of pollution into drinking water supply wells and into surface water such as seeps and springs.

- Eliminate excessive use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Do not apply these materials when heavy rains are forecasted and do not use in proximity to stormwater drains or surface waters.
- Keep fertilizers off paved areas.
- Pick up pet waste. Pet waste can be a source of pollution by releasing ammonia, bacteria, and parasites into stormwater systems.
- Wash vehicles at designated car wash facilities where wash water will be routed away from stormwater systems.
- Never put yard waste such as leaves or grass clippings in the street or storm drains.
- Keep dumpster lids closed when not in use to keep rainwater out and trash in.
- Sweep driveways, porches, and sidewalks instead of hosing them down with water.





## Pet Waste Management

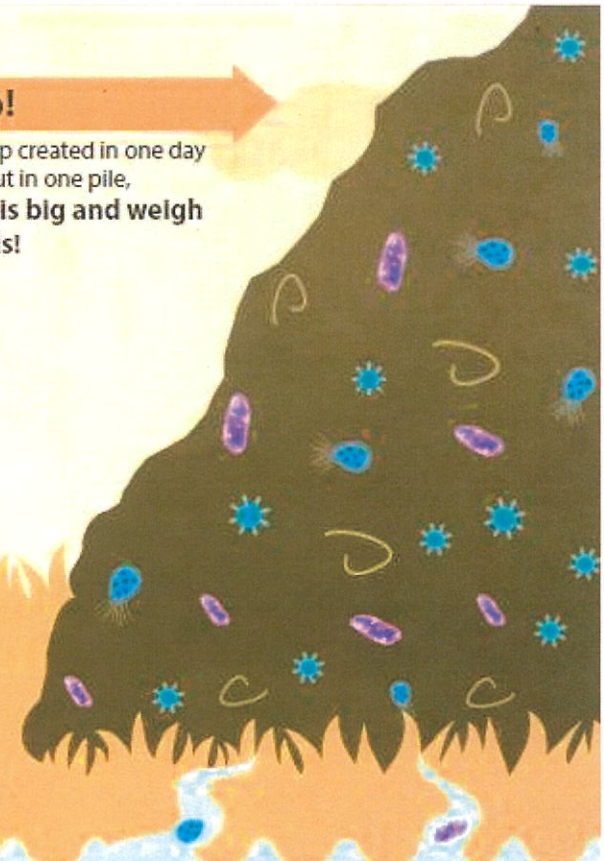
*Scoop it up,  
It's Your Duty!*



### It Adds Up!

If all the dog poop created in one day in Abilene was put in one pile, it would be this big and weigh 19,000 pounds!

You know what this is.



Dyess Air Force Base, TX

For Questions or Comments  
Call  
Base Environmental  
UES-UEB  
Phone: 1-512-695-5119



### What's the Problem?

#### Pet Waste:

- It's Not Just Smelly!!
- It's Not Just Yucky to Step in!!
- It's Not Just Fertilizer!!
- IT'S A PROBLEM!!

#### Human and Pet Health:

##### Pet waste can cause:

- Giardia
- Roundworms
- Salmonella
- Other unpronounceable
- Viruses and Parasites

#### Water Quality:

##### Nutrients in pet waste can cause:

- Aquatic weeds
- Algae
- Gasping fish (no oxygen!)
- Water that is just too nasty to look at or play in

### What Can You Do?

**Bring It!** Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog

**Scoop It!** Use a baggie as a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag

**Toss It!** It belongs in the trash

*Dyess AFB Military Family Housing area has 21 Pet Waste Stations in location around the park open areas as well as near the lake and the Dog Park. These stations include dog waste bags and a dispenser to place the dog waste. The stations are checked regularly and the doody is properly disposed.*

### This is Our Water

After a rain, yucky stuff like nutrients and bacteria washes from the dog poop into our waterways.





# Lawn Care and Gardening Tips

## Keep Our Creeks Clean by Properly Maintaining Your Lawn.

Lawn care, landscaping and pest control practices are major contributors to stormwater pollution. Rain or melting snow/ice flows across yards, rooftops, paved areas, picking up leaves, grass clippings, garden and lawn chemicals. This flows directly into the storm drain system.

### Why Does It Matter?

Nutrients and other chemicals from yard waste can cause excessive algae growth and toxin production. Algae blooms can rob the organisms that live in our streams from the oxygen they need to survive, killing fish along the way, not to mention it makes water from the tap taste funky and that just ruins the taste of our sweet Texas tea.

### How You Can Make a Difference!

#### ***Lawn Care***

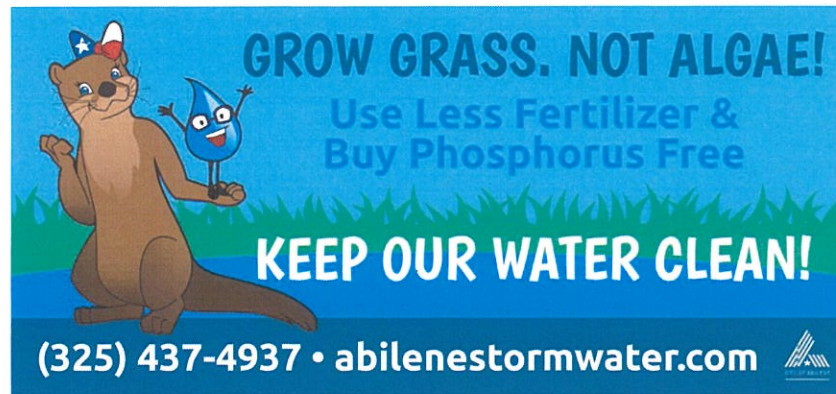
- Don't scalp your lawn when mowing. Leave your grass fairly long and within the City's Code Compliance for grass height.
- Leave the grass blades on the lawn via mulching or bag and use as a compost. Do not blow clippings into the gutter or street.
- Compost or throw away leaves and other organic matter instead of putting it in the street. Excessive leaves and organic material can contribute to high nutrient levels in the water.
- Enjoy the outdoors and hand pick your weeds. If you must spray, spot treat for weeds.

#### ***Watering***

- Direct downspouts to depressed areas or garden/flower beds so that water soaks into your yard and doesn't run into the street.
- You can water your lawn too much. Too much of anything is bad including watering your lawn. Excessive runoff wastes water and washes any fertilizer or nutrients you've added down the street into the storm drain.

#### ***Fertilizing***

- If the forecast calls for rain in the next two days, don't fertilize. The rain will wash the fertilizer off your lawn, down the gutter and into the storm drain.
- Fertilize only when necessary and be sure to follow the instructions. It goes against the Texas way of living which is, "If a little is good then more must be better." It actually weakens your lawn and the excess runs off into the storm drain.
- Have your soil tested so you know exactly what nutrients are needed for your lawn (i.e. Texas A&M Soil Testing Lab).
- Use compost whenever possible it has many more benefits for your landscaping and improves the soil's health.



### ***Lawn Design Options***

- Consider a rain garden or Xeriscaping and direct runoff from your roof to drain on the garden. Harvesting rainwater is best.
- Consider using porous materials (bricks, gravel, flagstone, etc.) for your sidewalks/driveways instead of impervious materials (concrete, asphalt).
- Add trees and shrubs to capture and hold rainwater before it can reach the ground.

### ***Xeriscape Landscaping***

- Consider xeriscaping as a landscape method as it uses low-water-use plants to limit your water use.
- Use porous material for walkways and patios to prevent wasteful runoff and keep water in your yard.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under-watering others.
- Choose the right West Texas-friendly plants and watch them thrive in our desert environment.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
- Plant in the spring and fall, when the watering requirements are lower.
- Avoid planting grass in areas that are hard to water, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- Start a compost pile. Using compost in your garden or flower beds adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- Use a layer of organic mulch on the surface of your planting beds to minimize weed growth that competes for water.
- Spreading a 2-4 inch layer of organic mulch around plants helps them retain moisture, saving water, time and money.
- Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low-water-use plant and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- Collect water from your roof by installing gutters and downspouts. Direct the runoff to plants and trees.
- For automatic water savings, direct water from HVAC systems to water-loving plants in your landscape.



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

### Storm Water Pollution Prevention

#### What is Storm Water Pollution?

*Many household activities can contribute to storm water contamination. During rain events, dirt, debris, oil, and household chemicals can runoff and impact creeks, streams, rivers, etc. This can impact local aquatic ecosystems and potentially contaminate drinking water sources.*

#### Storm Water Pollution Prevention Practices

##### **Lawn Care**

- Use environmentally friendly lawn care products when possible.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, and follow product directions.
- Refrain from overwatering your lawn to prevent runoff.
- Follow any watering schedule restrictions set by the City of Abilene or Dyess Air Force Base.
- Collect and compost leaves and grass clippings instead of hosing down the storm drain.

##### **Pets**

- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Look for pet waste collection stations along bike / walking trails and around playground areas.

##### **Trash**

- Recycle trash when possible or dispose of trash in covered waste collection containers.
- Sweep and collect litter and debris from driveways for disposal instead of hosing down the storm drain.

##### **Household Chemicals**

- Use environmentally friendly products when possible.
- Dispose of leftover paints, detergents, cleaning supplies, etc. at the appropriate designated special waste collection location listed below.
- Properly store all household chemicals so they are not exposed to rain or rainwater runoff.

##### **Washing Vehicles**

- Use a car wash or designated vehicle washing area.
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended.

##### **Automotive Maintenance**

- Maintenance on vehicles, such as changing engine oil fluids, must be performed at the Auto Hobby Shop or off-base.
- Properly dispose of automotive fluids at the Auto Hobby Shop or at other authorized used oil collection centers off-base.

#### Special Waste Collection Locations

**Dyess AFB Automotive Waste Oil Collections**  
Auto Hobby Shop (Building 7101)

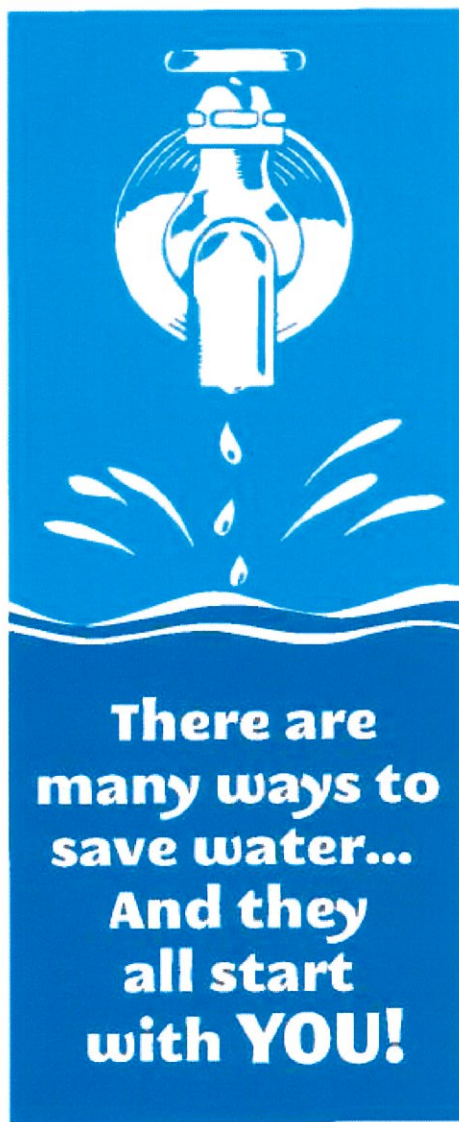
**Paints: and Household Hazardous Waste**  
The City of Abilene Recycling Center  
2209 Oak Street, Abilene, TX  
Phone: (325) 672-2209

For Questions or Comments Contact:

Base Environmental  
7 CES/CEIE  
Phone: 325-696-5619



## Water Conservation



### WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Dyess AFB follows the City of Abilene's water restriction schedule, which is based on area reservoir levels.

Consult the City of Abilene website for current watering restrictions:  
<http://saveabilenewater.com>



### DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

### WATER CONSERVATION

#### DYESS AIR FORCE BASE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION

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1018 Third St. Bldg. 8020  
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Phone: 325-696-5619





# WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

## INSIDE

- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.
- Install water saving shower heads, low-flow toilets, and other low-flow EPA Water Sense certified fixtures.
- The average five-minute shower uses 10 gallons of water with a low-flow shower head, while the average bath requires over 30 gallons.
- Do not leave water running while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing your face.
- Use a dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand. Newer dishwasher models typically use less water than washing by hand.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.
- When refilling your pet's water bowl, give the old water to inside or outside plants rather than sending it down the drain.
- Minimize the use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units – these units require a lot of water to operate correctly and introduce solids to the sanitary system. Compost vegetable and fruit waste instead.



## OUTSIDE

- Do not water paved areas. Position sprinklers to direct water to the lawn or garden only.
- Do not overwater lawns or gardens. This saves water and also prevents plant diseases.
- Use mulch to prevent water loss.
- Water lawns at night or early in the morning to reduce water loss due to evaporation.
- Avoid shallow watering which promotes a weak root system and reduces the drought-tolerance of plants.
- Use hoses with nozzles that automatically shut off when not in use.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses for irrigation.
- Utilize spot watering – hand water with a nozzle hose or handheld container when and where it is needed instead of irrigating the entire lawn.



- Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation and less water loss.
- Landscape with native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant.
- If legal in your area, install rain barrels or cisterns to collect rainwater for lawn and garden irrigation.
- Wash vehicles at a commercial or industrial facility where water may be reused.



# SAVE

# WATER