

## **Ripple Effect # 53 – Spring Cleaning and Our Rivers**

Our cars are dirty from the spring melt. Our yards need picking up. Our garage could use a cleaning.

Spring is a good time to remind ourselves that everything that enters our storm sewers goes into the Red River. Many people depend on the Red and its tributaries for recreation and fishing. And the Red River supplies drinking water to many communities.

When washing your car, don't use that driveway! Instead, use a lawn area that can catch and filter the cleaning agents. Better yet, wash your car at a commercial car wash facility which is equipped to deal with the wastewater.

And when you pick up your yard, make sure to properly dispose of pet waste. Flush it down a toilet or put it in the trash.

And those unused paints or pesticides in the garage, take them to a household hazardous waste facility nearest you. You will find places and telephone number listed under 'household hazardous waste' in city or county telephone listings.

Spring is a good time to freshen and clean up. We can do that by using practices that keep harmful elements out of our storm sewers and out of our rivers!

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.