

# Please Help Keep Our Streams Clean!

Tulsa's storm sewers are designed to divert excess rainwater to creeks that flow into local rivers and creeks. They are not for disposal of grass clippings, leaves or other yard wastes.

It is important to protect the quality and control the quantity of the water flowing into the drainage system.

City workers monitor the system regularly for oil and grease, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment. Crews routinely remove debris from drains and sewers to prevent water from backing up into streets and homes. Littering and dumping yard wastes and household fluids down storm drains can cause blockages between scheduled maintenance and is illegal.

Here are steps you can take to protect Tulsa's creeks and beautify neighborhoods and reduce flood risks.

- Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks. Don't pour used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other pollutants into storm drains. Contact the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.) at (918) 584-0584, for proper disposal methods and locations. You can visit the M.e.t.'s website at: [www.metrecycle.com](http://www.metrecycle.com)
- Use a mulching mower or bag grass and leaves instead of blowing them into streets. Yard wastes clog storm drains and deplete oxygen in the water. Fish need oxygen to survive.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read labels to determine how much to use and when to apply. The Master Gardener program has volunteers trained to answer questions about pesticides and fertilizers. Call the Master Gardener Hotline at (918) 746-3701 or visit: [www.tulsamastergardeners.org](http://www.tulsamastergardeners.org)
- Pick up litter around your home or business so that it doesn't collect on drain inlets or clog sewer pipes.
- If you see someone littering while driving, report the incident to the Oklahoma Litter Hotline 1-888-5-LITTER.
- If you spot a blocked drain or notice illegal dumping, call the City's Customer Care Center at (918) 596-2100 or fill out a form online at [www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org). Click on the "Report A Problem" link to find the reporting form.

Tulsa OnLine: Access services and contact City departments via the Internet at: <http://www.cityoftulsa.org>

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## Construction Permits Required in Tulsa

Building permits ensure safe construction inside and outside of floodplains.

The City of Tulsa's permitting process is designed to ensure that all construction in Tulsa is safe. A permit is required for all new construction and, most of the time, you must obtain a permit for repairing or replacing existing features.

Before you begin construction or add on to your existing building, find out which permits are required by contacting the Permit and Licensing Center.

In addition to regular building permits, special regulations apply to construction in floodways and the Regulatory Floodplain. No construction, including filling, is allowed in the mapped floodway without an engineering analysis that shows the project will not increase flood damage elsewhere. Any activity outside the floodplain but within a natural or man-made watercourse also requires a permit.

A floodplain watershed development permit must be obtained from the City of Tulsa before commencing construction, landfill, or excavation in a floodplain. New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage, so building codes requires that new buildings be elevated at least one foot above the elevation of the City of Tulsa Regulatory Floodplain.

Homeowners planning substantial improvements should contact the Permit & Licensing Center for a residential building permit. Elevation or floodproofing may be required if you want to construct a substantial improvement (the cost of the improvement or add-on is 50 percent of the value of the existing building). Permits also are required for a repair if it's more than just cleanup after a storm. If your property is substantially damaged (50 percent of the value of the building), federal regulations may require you to elevate or floodproof before you can rebuild.

To report illegal floodplain development or to verify that proper construction permits have been issued for a project, contact the Customer Care Center. An inspector will investigate.

The Permit & Licensing Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m to 4 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall at One Technology Center, 175 E. 2nd St.



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# Winter Weather Preparedness Tips

The City of Tulsa and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency (TAEMA) urge Tulsans to be prepared for dealing with winter weather.

TAEMA and the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management offer the following tips to help be prepared.

## Have A Plan

- Discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Ensure your family knows meeting places and phone numbers of other family members in case they are separated when a winter storm hits.
- Know what to do if basic services such as water, gas, electricity or telephone are cut off for an extended period of time.
- Understand the hazards of wind chill. Cold is more dangerous, and potentially deadly, when combined with strong winds. The lower the temperature and stronger the wind, the more at risk you are.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors, especially the elderly. Make sure they are prepared.
- Plan to bring pets inside during winter weather. Provide outside pets with non-frozen drinking water.
- Install and check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Let faucets drip to avoid freezing and know how to shut off water valves if necessary.
- Have an alternate heating method such as fireplace or wood or coal burning stove. Always be cautious

when using a portable space heater.

- Never heat a home with an oven if electricity is out.

## Make a Kit For Your Car:

### Include:

- Windshield scraper, de-icer, snow shovel and small broom for ice and snow removal
- A cell phone with charger and a battery-powered radio
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Mittens or gloves
- Non-perishable snacks like dried fruit, nuts and other high energy foods
- Bottled water
- Sand or cat litter for generating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats
- Jumper cables, flashlight with extra batteries and first aid kit if you get stranded

## Stay Informed

- Know what National Weather Service winter storm and blizzard watches and warnings mean.
- A winter storm watch is a message indicating a winter storm is possible in your area.
- A winter storm warning indicates a winter storm is occurring or will soon occur and could threaten life and property.
- A winter weather advisory means winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.

• Ice storms usually bring heavy accumulations of ice that can bring down trees, electrical wires, telephone poles and lines, and communication towers. Power can be disrupted for days while the utility company works to repair the extensive damage.

- A blizzard warning means sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater and considerable falling or blowing snow is expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.
- Depend on your (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio, along with local radio and television stations, for weather reports.

## Be Cautious with Alternative Heat Sources:

- Do NOT use generators, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. They produce carbon monoxide which is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that kills more than 500 people every year. Use extra caution when using space heaters.
- Use fireplaces, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented.
- Do not place a space heater within three feet of anything combustible.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by installing a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector.