

Food Service Industry

Stormwater Best Management Practices



Storm drains are found in our streets and parking lots. You probably walk by a few of them a day, but just don't think much about them. Storm drains are put in place to gather stormwater runoff and bring to our local waterways (rivers, lakes, washes, and retention basins). Storm drains don't remove any pollution before entering our waterways. Stormwater runoff is now one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots and streets. So, if restaurants aren't careful with disposal and cleanup procedures, they could be harming the environment. With the right knowledge, staff can prevent pollution from entering storm drains, therefore, helping to improve the water quality in local waterways.

What Can I Do?

- Pour wash water in a utility sink; don't pour it out onto a parking lot, ally, sidewalk, or street.
- Use dry methods (i.e. sweeping) for spill cleanup for areas outside of restaurant; don't hose down spills.
- Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a utility sink or curbed cleaning facility with a floor drain.
- Recycle grease and oil, don't pour into sinks, floor drains, or onto a parking lot or street.
- Keep dumpster area clean and lid closed, don't fill it up with liquid waste. If power washing, refer to power washing fact sheet for guidelines.
- Repair or replace leaky dumpsters.
- All solid and liquid waste, such as tallow, must be stored and transferred in watertight, covered containers.
- Train employees to practice pollution prevention; post best management practice guidelines.



For additional information or questions, please contact:
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