

CITY OF POMONA

Storm Water Pollution Prevention For Food-Handling Facilities



Food facilities include restaurants, cafeterias, bakeries, coffee shops, and grocery stores. Discharging wastewater, grease, and other materials into the storm drain is a violation of both California Health and Safety Code, County, and City Storm Water Ordinances.

Everything washed into the storm drains is untreated and ultimately ends up in our creeks and rivers. Food waste sent down storm drains not only creates odors but helps sustain populations of cockroaches, flies, and rats. Substances such as detergents, cleansers, and grease can be harmful to aquatic life. Even “biodegradable” cleansers can be harmful when discharged to the storm drain.

Wastes from mop buckets, equipment cleaning, tallow bins and dumpsters should not be discharged to the storm drain.

Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers. These are typically the drains found in streets and in parking lots.

Sanitary Sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged to the river.

Training

Employees of food facilities should be trained in methods for keeping food pollutants out of the storm drains. The training should include education about the harmful effects of allowing wastewater and food waste to enter the storm drain.

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STORM WATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

MOP BUCKETS AND SINKS

- Never empty a mop bucket where it will drain into a storm drain. Always use the mop sink.
- Keep the mop sink accessible. Don't use it to store materials or equipment.

SPILLS

- For outdoor spills, use a mop, rag or absorbent material (such as kitty litter) to clean spills.
- Always keep used absorbent material out of the storm drain. Don't let the absorbent material get saturated. Dispose of it by placing it in a sealed plastic bag and place in the garbage dumpster.
- Store cleaning fluids indoors so leaks and spills can't reach storm drains.

GREASE AND OIL

- Always use tallow bins to dispose of oils and greases.
- To minimize spills when transferring oil and grease to the tallow bin, use containers of adequate size that are equipped with spouts.
- Wipe spills as soon as possible. Use dry cleanup methods, such as kitty litter absorbents.
- Maintain grease traps to prevent overflows and have contents professionally hauled and disposed of; some interceptors may need to be refilled with water. For pumping and hauling companies refer to the yellow pages under "Septic Tanks and Systems."

GARBAGE DUMPSTERS

- Never dispose of liquids in the garbage dumpster.
- Keep the garbage dumpster drain closed and inspect for leaks on a regular basis.
- Keep the garage dumpster lid closed and locked (if possible) to keep out rain and scavengers.
- When the garbage dumpster needs cleaning, call your solid waste hauler for cleaning or replacement.
- Use garbage bags.

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EQUIPMENT CLEANING

- Clean floor mats, garbage cans and other large pieces of equipment at a mop sink or interior floor drain approved by the building department.

For items that are too large to be effectively cleaned indoors, consider the following options:

- Construct a permanent wash pad that is properly connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Use a temporary containment area (see “Steam Cleaning Equipment” in the yellow pages).
- Hire a cleaning service that has the right equipment to properly dispose of wastewater.

PRESSURE WASHING

- Water from pressure washing outside areas should be discharged to the sanitary sewer or otherwise properly disposed of without letting it flow down storm drains. Use dry cleanup methods to clean outside areas whenever possible.
- Restaurants that use outside companies to do their pressure washing are still responsible if cleaning water is improperly disposed of into the storm drain.

Environmental Concerns, Call (909) 620-3628
Water Watcher 24-Hour Reporting Line, Call (909) 620-2244
To Report Illegal Storm Water Discharges, Call 1(888) CLEAN LA

Website: www.ci.Pomona.ca.us

PROTECT *our* ENVIRONMENT