

## Good Housekeeping Practices for Food Service Businesses to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Everyone needs to lend a hand in preventing stormwater pollution, which helps to keep our environment and waterways clean. Here are some ways that our local food service businesses can help; many of these practices apply to all businesses:

### 1. Control Kitchen Grease Storage

Ensure grease storage containers are not leaking and are kept in good condition. Take steps to prevent grease from dripping or overflowing when transferring and emptying containers. Container lids should fit securely and be inaccessible to vandals and animals. Never-dispose of grease in a storm drain.



### 2. Trash Storage and Handling

Non-hazardous and non-liquid solid wastes should be containerized in tied bags prior to disposing of in dumpsters. Lids on trash cans and dumpsters should fit securely to prevent dispersal of trash by animals or high winds. Request that your trash hauler pick up litter dispersed during their transfer. Regularly inspect waste storage areas for litter.

### 3. Enclose Outdoor Food Storage and Processing Areas

When applicable, use temporary tarps or tents as a short-term measure and permanent structures (i.e., awning or shed) to cover activity areas to prevent rain or snow from picking-up or collecting residues and wastes. If an activity cannot be effectively controlled, relocate it indoors or to an alternate site.

### 4. Control Outdoor Washing Activities

Wash items outdoors only as a last resort and according to local code. Use minimum amounts of water to avoid producing excessive runoff that may contain detergent or pesticide residues, bacteria or grease. Polluted wash water, even in small amounts, can accumulate in storm drains and waterways where it can harm aquatic life and impact water quality.

### 5. Sweep Sidewalk and Parking Lot

Sweep all of your public areas to control litter and debris, cigarette butts and packaging waste from customers and deliveries.

### 6. Conveniently Locate Trash Cans and Cigarette Receptacles

Keep these receptacles in plain view for your customers' use to encourage proper disposal of wastes, wrappers and packaging from your premises. Trash cans should be covered with securely fitting lids.

7. Eliminate Illicit Drain Connections

Plumbing from indoor sink drains should not discharge directly into storm drainage systems, gutters, creeks or streams; instead, indoor drains should be plumbed according to local sanitary code. Indoor drains should discharge to an approved wastewater treatment facility. Illicit connections have historically been a problem in older buildings.

8. Control Erosion and Landscaped Areas

Use native shrubs, plants and natural groundcovers to beautify your site, control areas where pedestrian traffic has damaged plants, and consider alternative materials, such as river rock or mulch in areas of heavy use. Periodically inspect any sloped areas for soil erosion.