

Restaurants

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system. Discharges of food particles, oil, grease, trash and other cleaning products contribute to Stormwater pollution. These discharges pollute the Red River and are prohibited by law. Your business can help keep Stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River clean by applying the following tips.

- Sweep, mop or vacuum instead of using a hose to clean outdoor areas.
- Always clean equipment indoors or in a covered outdoor wash area that is connected to the sanitary sewer.
 - If your business has an outdoor drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer, cover the area to prevent rainwater and snowmelt from entering the system.
- All mop water from cleaning floors must be disposed of indoors in a mop sink, toilet or other drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Sweep pavement areas including drive-through, parking lots, outdoor eating areas and dumpster frequently. If you must use water for cleaning, use a mop & bucket and dispose of the wash water in a mop sink or floor drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Major cleaning of exterior surfaces must include capturing all wash water and disposing it to the sanitary sewer in compliance with local regulations. Wash water should not be allowed to enter the street, gutter or the storm sewer system.
- Never pour wash water outside or into a street, gutter or storm sewer system.
- All concentrated waste oil and grease must be collected in a tallow bin and disposed of by a certified waste grease hauler. Never pour grease or oil into a sink, floor drain, storm drain or dumpster.
- Use dry methods for spill cleanup. Rags or absorbents such as kitty litter can be used to pick up liquids or grease. Sweep up absorbents and dispose of them properly.
- Keep outside areas free of trash and debris. Clean outdoor eating areas frequently using dry cleaning methods such as sweeping or vacuuming.
- Never wash down a dumpster or tallow bin with a hose. Check dumpsters regularly for leaks. If a dumpster or tallow bin must be cleaned or repaired, contact the leasing company.

Did You know?

Storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or the wastewater treatment plant. The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As water flows on the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants that flow into local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

