



The City of San Diego

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Restaurants

When it rains or when water flows out of yards or over pavement, it flows directly into storm drains. Many people mistakenly believe this water gets "cleaned" before reaching waterways. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance systems (drains, inlets and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm drain system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Releasing pollutants into the storm water collection system is a violation of the City Municipal Code, (43.0301).

Clean **Restaurants** are important to us all. But, often the very activities that keep them sparkling, or assist in food production can cause pollution of our rivers, beaches, bays and ocean. Being a great restaurant and an environmentally responsible food establishment can go hand-in-hand in the City of San Diego. Here are some **Storm Water Best Management Practices Restaurants and other Food and Beverage Establishments can adopt:**

Identify and Locate the storm drains on your premises and down the street where pollutants may migrate to from your establishment. Being aware of what you are trying to protect and where it's located is a great start in becoming a Clean Water Leader.

Litter- paper and Styrofoam products are common pollutants found in the storm drain conveyance system. Encourage customers to use trash containers on the premises, and empty them frequently. Customers are more likely to use a trash receptacle if it is kept neat and clean. Routinely pick-up litter on and surrounding your premises. Check storm drains frequently and clean out the debris.

Cleaning Equipment-

When cleaning floor mats, filters, and garbage cans...

Indoors- do so in a mop sink, or near a floor drain that's connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Outdoor- within your designated cleaning area, where cleaning water will not flow to the street, the gutter a storm drain, creek, river or ocean.

When discarding wash water....

Pour the dirt liquid into the mop sink. Never pour it out the back door, or into the gutter.

Grease & Oil-

- Save used grease and oil for recycling in tallow bins or sealed containers
- Never pour grease into a sink, floor drain, storm drain or dumpster
- Watch out for, and report to management, overflowing grease interceptors, tallow bins and concealed containers
- Keep tallow bins and locked to prevent illegal dumping
- Place spill clean-up kits nearby in a well marked and accessible location

Other Fact sheets that may pertain to your activities:

- Cleaning Impervious Surfaces (high pressure washing)
- Dumpsters
- Spills
- Be A Clean Water Leader: Control, Contain & Capture

Adopt these behaviors and help Clean up our beaches and bays.

Think Blue, San Diego. For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: www.thinkbluesd.org

**Think
&
Act
Blue**

