



Storm Water Best Management Practices for The Food Service Industry

Did you know there are two sewer systems?

- The **sanitary sewer** collects waste water from homes, business and industry from sinks, toilets and other outlets. It goes to the water treatment plant for treatment.
- The **storm sewer** collects runoff from streets. There is no treatment for the storm sewer; storm water goes into the ground and eventually into the ground water. Anything dumped or left in the street, parking lot or gutter is pollution that can enter retention basins where children and pets play and from there can infiltrate and contaminate our ground water. Discharges from the food service industry that can introduce pollutants into our waterways through storm water runoff include grease, oil, food waste as well as cleaners from ovens, floors and drains.

Four ways the food industry can prevent wastewater from entering the storm system:

1. Maintain clean work & public sites:
 - Keep dumpsters and wash areas away from storm drains, gutters and catch basins
 - Keep dumpster lid closed to keep out rain
 - Inspect dumpsters regularly for leaks and spills & replace or repair when needed
 - Wash floor mats, exhaust filters and other equipment indoors and drain to a sink
 - Wash greasy items in areas that have appropriate oil/water separators
 - Connect wash areas to the sanitary sewer system
 - Clean outdoor seating areas by sweeping rather than hose; use dry absorbent for spills rather than soaps or cleansers
 - Clean grease traps and interceptors regularly; keep current records
2. Minimize Waste:
 - Don't use paper, plastic or Styrofoam dishes—use ceramic instead
 - If you must use disposable dishes, use biodegradable or recycled paper instead of plastic or Styrofoam
 - Place drained grease and oils into a tallow container
 - Utilize a contractor to recycle grease and oils in the tallow container
3. Dispose of hazardous materials properly:
 - Check labels carefully and try to avoid purchasing hazardous materials whenever possible.
 - Used cleaning fluids, rags soaked with solvents, detergents or other cleaning materials, and automotive products should be disposed of as hazardous waste, not in the trash.
4. Educate employees & customers:
 - Train your staff annually in the proper methods for cleaning, waste handling and waste disposal
 - Post Best Management Practices where all employees can see them

Check with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) at (602) 771-2300 for proper disposal methods and other information for these materials.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain

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