

FACT SHEET



Food Waste and Water Quality

Anything that flows or is washed into a storm drain can end up directly in our local waterways-untreated-where it can harm fish and wildlife and pollute drinking water sources. When food waste and pollutants associated with food businesses enter the storm drainage system, the result is a polluted waterway. Routine activities such as cleaning greasy vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks can be sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken.



The most common pollutants associated with food-related businesses are oxygen demanding substances (such as rotting food scraps), milk, grease and oil (from cooking food and delivery vehicles) and cleaning toxins. Other pollutants include nutrients (from detergents and food scraps), sediments (from unpaved parking lots, landscaping materials, or exposed soils), and automotive products such as fuels, brake liner dust and dirt from delivery vehicles.

Caring Solutions for Indoors

- Wash greasy equipment only in a designated wash area connected to the sanitary sewer system with a **grease removal device**. Do not dump oil or grease into dumpsters where they can leak.
- Recycle or properly dispose of oil and grease waste.
- Properly recycle, compost or dispose of food and chemical waste.
- Properly contain grease, fats, and oils, along with the chemicals used to remove them from surfaces. Always clean equipment indoors. Cleaning agents are extremely toxic.
- Wash water must be directed to an indoor sanitary drain that is plumbed to a **grease removal device**. Dispose of solid grease in grease dumpsters.
- Make sure your facility has a grease removal device and clean it regularly.
- Store wastes so they can't leak or be washed into the drainage system.

*Never pour grease or oil into
sink or floor drains*

- Recycle oil and grease wastes and properly store them before pickup; **never dump them down the storm drains or on the ground**.
- Properly dispose of or recycle all materials.
- Properly dispose of used oils and scrap metals.



Caring Solutions for Outdoors

- Fix and cover leaky dumpsters.
- Cover containers and materials.
- Wash equipment and delivery vehicles in a designated area that does not drain to the stormwater system.
- Promptly clean up outdoor spills.
- Never hose spills or pollutants into storm drains.
- No discharge from cleaning activities may enter storm drains or the stormwater system.
- Install and maintain an oil/water separator to treat parking lot runoff.



Storm drains are for clean rainwater only



- Properly store all materials and have a spill control plan.
 - Cover any fueling area to keep rain from washing away leaks or spilled fuel that could drain to the sanitary sewer.
 - Wash in a designated area that does not drain to the stormwater system.
 - Never hose pollutants into storm drains.
-
- Clean and maintain your business site; use a broom and dustpan on paved services.
 - Maintain a clean, organized work area to minimize spills.
 - Plant vegetation or pave exposed soils (depending on use) to prevent erosion.
 - Cover exposed soils.
 - Stabilize eroding banks.
 - Preserve and enhance streams and nearby vegetation.