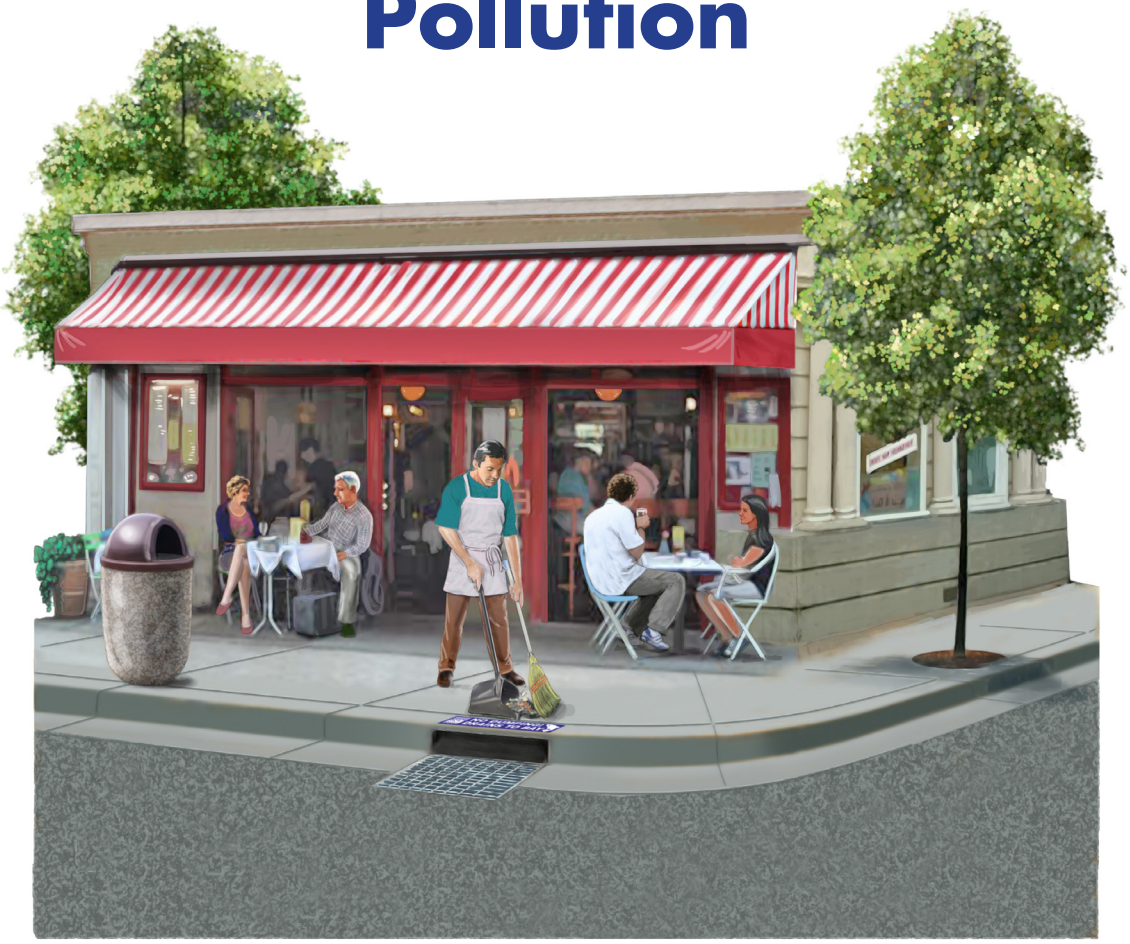
TIPS FOR A CLEANER BAY

How Your Food Service Facility Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution



cleanwater
PROGRAM

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

YOU CAN PREVENT WATER POLLUTION!

Storm drains flow directly into creeks and the Bay without any treatment. Because of this direct connection, water and other wastes that flow into a storm drain can easily cause pollution. It is the responsibility of your business to ensure that only rainwater enters the stormdrains near your facility. If wastes or wash waters from your business enter the storm drain system, you may have to pay for clean up costs and fines, have permits revoked, or even go to jail for causing stormwater pollution.

The pollution prevention practices outlined in this book will help your business stay in compliance with laws designed to protect stormwater and the environment. The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them. If you have questions, contact your local stormwater agency *(See Local Regulatory Contacts, page 8).*

Storm Drain: An outdoor drain that flows directly to creeks and the Bay.

Sanitary Sewer Drain: An indoor drain that flows to the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Sewer or Storm Drain?

In order to choose the most appropriate practice, it is important to determine whether a drain is a storm drain or a sanitary sewer. In general, drains inside the building are connected to the sanitary sewer, and outside drains (except for capped sanitary sewer "cleanouts") are connected to the storm drain system.

If you are not certain whether a drain leads to the storm drain or sanitary sewer, call your local stormwater agency for assistance.

GENERAL POLLUTION PREVENTION

1. Keep your business neat and clean – it saves time and money and prevents pollution.

- Routinely inspect and clean for proper functioning:
  - storm drain inlets (grates and sumps)
  - receiving areas
  - work areas
  - chemical storage areas
  - waste storage and recycling areas
  - grease removal devices
- Keep surfaces clean by sweeping, vacuuming or mopping – never wash down surfaces to gutter, storm drain inlet, street or waterway. For pressure washing of pavement or other surfaces, hire a cleaning contractor trained to use pollution prevention practices. (See Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association's list of recognized surface cleaners at www.basmaa.org/SearchforCleaners.aspx). Ensure all washwater is collected for proper disposal.
- Sweep parking areas and gutters at least monthly and before it rains, and pick up litter and trash *daily*.

2. Protect your storm drain inlets from pollution of any kind.

- Label/stencil each storm drain inlet to remind workers and customers that no dumping is allowed.

3. Prevent spills and properly manage those that do happen.

- Be prepared! Keep spill cleanup materials easily accessible.
- Prevent spills when transferring liquids by using drip pans, secondary containment and absorbents.
- Clean up spills *immediately* with rags, absorbents or wet/dry vacuum. Do not allow fluids to accumulate or run across surfaces. Never wash spills down or allow spills to flow into a storm or sanitary sewer drain inlet. Clean up absorbents *immediately* following their use.

4. Train staff regularly on these practices.

Discuss good pollution control practices with every new employee and all employees at least quarterly. Inform every new employee about these best management practices and employees' responsibility for following them.

EQUIPMENT WASHING AND MAINTENANCE

- Wash equipment indoors at a utility sink or location where washwaters drain to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local sanitary sewer treatment agency for approval (See back cover for contact information).
- Connection to the sanitary sewer may also require a plumbing permit from your local jurisdiction. Contact your City for more information.
- Service oil/grease interceptors at least quarterly, and more often if the combined thickness of the floatable solids and settleable solids exceeds 25% of the total depth.
- Under-sink grease traps should be serviced at least *weekly*, more often if the grease trap is more than 25% full of grease and solids.
- Mobile washing of some types of equipment, such as roof exhaust equipment, is acceptable if all washwater is contained, vacuumed up, and disposed of to sanitary sewer.

Refrigeration and Cooling Tower Maintenance:

For large food handling facilities such as grocery stores:

- Ensure all discharges from cooling equipment go to the sanitary sewer and NOT to the street, storm drain or creek.
- Ensure your maintenance contractor is knowledgeable and skilled at minimizing corrosion by using correct chemical treatment.

GREASE HANDLING AND STORAGE

- Do not pour cooking oil or grease into sinks or floor drains, or into a parking lot, storm drain or street.
- Dispose or recycle cooking oil and grease through a licensed waste grease hauler or licensed grease recycler. Find grease haulers and recyclers using CalFOG's (California Fats Oils Grease) website: www.Calfog.org/Hauler.html
- Practice dry clean up. Use scrapers to remove food wastes from serving ware, pots, pans, grills and cooking surfaces prior to cleaning them with water. Dispose of food waste in compost bin (if available) or garbage receptacle.
- Use food grade paper to soak up oil and grease under fryer baskets. Dispose of soaked paper in compost bin (if available) or garbage receptacle.
- Check rooftop exhaust fans and flumes a least *monthly*. Place an oil collection tray under the rooftop exhaust fan shrouds to collect cooking oil. Empty the shrouds *weekly*.
- Improper handling and disposal that creates a discharge to a storm drain is illegal. Both the company and individuals responsible are subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

OUTDOOR WASTE STORAGE

- Don't dispose any liquids or solids in the storm drain. Recycle and compost whenever possible.
- Inspect the garbage and recycling area *daily* for dropped wastes, overfilled or leaking dumpsters and trash compactors, and dumpsters with open lids.
- Pick up dropped wastes and sweep the dumpster area.
- Make sure dumpsters are not overfilled and lids are kept closed. Use a big enough dumpster so that you can keep the lids closed.
- Replace leaking dumpsters. Dumpsters without tight lids or that leak must be replaced or repaired. Some dumpsters have plugs that need to remain in place. Contact your service provider for help.
- Prevent and clean up any trash compactor leachate drippings or direct them to the sanitary sewer with approval of your local sanitary sewer treatment agency (see back cover for contact information).
- Use a licensed company to haul and recycle or dispose of wastes.
- Do not rinse waste containers in areas near storm drains.
- Keep dumpsters inside the enclosure at all times when not being serviced by the garbage company.
- Consult your local hazardous waste agency about hazardous materials disposal and handling. See back page for contact information.

LITTER

Litter and trash are bad for business and harm the health of creeks and the Bay.

- Provide enough trash receptacles for customers and employees. All outdoor receptacles must be covered.
- Pick up litter *daily*. Maintain the sidewalk in front of your business so that it is free of litter and dirt. Don't wash into street or storm drain.
- Any creek passing through or next to your property must be maintained free of trash and debris.
- Encourage your customers to bring their own reusable bags instead of using polystyrene containers and plastic bags. These types of disposables increasingly are being outlawed because of the pollution they create.

LANDSCAPING AND SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

- Know whether your landscaping is specifically designed to minimize and treat stormwater runoff, and, if it is, make sure it is maintained as designed.
- Follow Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Program practices. Visit www.bayfriendly.org.
- Use less toxic alternatives to pesticides. For more information on integrated pest management, visit www.ourwaterourworld.org.
- Do not overwater– maintain sprinklers to avoid pavement watering.
- Clean up fallen leaves and remove prunings for composting or disposal with green wastes. Don't dispose of these materials in the street, a storm drain or creek.

LOCAL REGULATORY CONTACTS

Local Stormwater Agencies

Alameda ..... (510) 747-7930
Albany ..... (510) 528-5770
Berkeley ..... (510) 981-7460
Dublin ..... (925) 833-6650
Emeryville ..... (510) 596-3728
Fremont ..... (510) 494-4570
Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900
Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100
Newark ..... (510) 578-4286
Oakland ..... (510) 238-6544
Piedmont ..... (510) 420-3050
Pleasanton ..... (925) 931-5511
San Leandro ..... (510) 577-3401
Unincorporated Alameda County ..... (510) 567-6700
Union City ..... (510) 675-5301
Clean Water Program ..... (510) 670-5543

Local Hazardous Waste Agencies

(Certified Unified Program Agencies – CUPAs)
Alameda County Environmental Health ..... (510) 567-6780
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Emeryville, Newark, Piedmont, San Lorenzo, and Sunol.)
Berkeley Toxics ..... (510) 981-7460
Fremont Fire ..... (510) 494-4213
Hayward Fire ..... (510) 583-4910
Livermore-Pleasanton Fire ..... (925) 454-2362
Oakland Fire ..... (510) 238-3927
San Leandro Environmental Services ..... (510) 577-3401
Union City Environmental Programs ..... (510) 675-5358

Local Sanitary Sewer Treatment Agencies

East Bay Municipal Utility District ..... (510) 287-1651
(Serves Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Piedmont. Also contact your City, regarding sewer connection.)
Dublin-San Ramon Services District ..... (925) 828-0515
(Serves Dublin. Also contact City of Pleasanton)
Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900
Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100
Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 276-4700
(Serves communities of San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, unincorporated San Leandro and Hayward)
Castro Valley Sanitary District ..... (510) 537-0757
San Leandro ..... (510) 577-3401
Union Sanitary District ..... (510) 477-7500
(Serves Fremont, Newark and Union City)

CONSIDER BECOMING A GREEN BUSINESS

The Bay Area Green Business Program certifies small to medium-sized businesses as green and recognizes Green Businesses through promotion and public recognition. To become a certified green business, Program staff will verify that your business is complying with environmental regulations and taking actions to conserve resources and prevent pollution. For more information, visit www.greenbiz.ca.gov.

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

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