



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

# Restaurants & Food Service Industry

Dear Owner/Manager:

You and your staff play an important role in keeping pollution out of the storm drain system and out of local streams. This stormwater protection guide is provided to help you comply with environmental storm drain system requirements within your local municipality and the county. It is illegal for unauthorized wastes or wash waters from your business to enter the **storm drain system or waterways**. You may have to pay for clean-up costs, fines, or encounter more stringent measures as a result of an incident through local, state, and federal regulations. This brochure is meant to help you avoid those situations, to promote clean stormwater runoff practices, and to make it easy for businesses to understand the water pollution regulations that affect them. If you have questions, you may contact your local municipality or the County agency contact on the back of this brochure.

Carroll County Department of Land & Resource Management



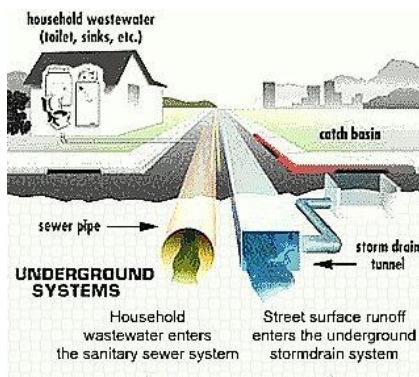
## What is Stormwater Pollution?

The term stormwater is used to describe water from rain or snow. Stormwater that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff from roof tops, parking lots, streets, yards, and other impervious surfaces. This runoff flows into surface waterways or is channeled through storm drains.

## Storm Drain vs. Sanitary Sewer?

Most storm drains flow directly into streams without any treatment. Newer storm drain systems may flow into a stormwater management facility and discharge to streams or infiltrate into the groundwater with potential contaminants.

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm drain system is NOT connected to the wastewater treatment plant. The sanitary sewer system takes



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wastewater from your restaurant (toilets, sinks, dishwashers, and property connected mop/clean up sinks) and sends it to a treatment plant that removes contaminants before it is released.

## Good Housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Employ these Good Housekeeping BMPs to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution into nearby storm drain systems and waterways.



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### Manage Kitchen Grease Properly

- Keep grease storage containers clean and wiped off. Inspect regularly. Keep under roof if feasible.
- Prevent grease from dripping or overflowing when transferring and emptying containers.
- Ensure container lids should fit securely and are closed.
- Regularly service grease containers by a licensed hauler and supervise activity.
- Never dump grease down a storm drain.



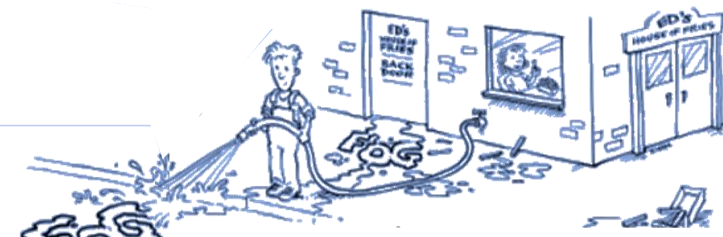
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### Trash/Recycling Storage and Handling

- Place non-hazardous waste (trash, food, packaging, etc.) in sealed bags prior to disposal. Minimize liquids.
- Keep lids on trash/recycling cans, bins, and other outdoor containers.
- Regularly inspect dumpsters for leaks and for loose trash. Replace leaking dumpsters.
- Do not dispose of any materials in storm drain.

### Control Outdoor Washing Activities

- Pour wash water into a janitorial or mop sink. Don't pour it outside or into the storm drain.



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- ♣ Wash all equipment indoors with wastewater directed to floor drains or sinks.
- ♣ Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink, wash rack, or floor drain connected to the sewer through a grease trap.

- ♣ Wash items outdoors only as a last resort and according to local code. Wastewater from outdoor activities **MUST BE CONTAINED**, recaptured, and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. (ex. high pressure washing, etc.)

### Sweep Sidewalks and Parking Lots

- ♣ Sweep outside around front and back doors to control litter and debris, cigarette butts, and packaging waste from customers and deliveries.

### Eliminate Illicit Drain Connections

- ♣ Plumb indoor drains according to local sanitary code. Do not discharge plumbing and drains to gutters or streams.

### Spill Prevention/Dry Cleanup Measures

- ♣ Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, cat litter, or absorbent). Don't hose down spills outside.

### Train and Educate Employees

- ♣ Ensure employees understand the effect their daily activities could have on water quality, as they are more likely to respond to training.
- ♣ Include stormwater pollution prevention / water quality training in employee orientations, reviews, and staff meetings.

### Conduct Routine Inspections

- ♣ Perform routine inspections to help ensure your work site complies with stormwater requirements.
- ♣ Make sure all pipes inside your business are properly connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- ♣ Review your current practices and look for areas where you can improve. Use the *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Self-Inspection Checklist and Action Plan* to assist with this process.
- ♣ Record any changes you make to document corrections and improvements.



## COMPLETING YOUR STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST AND ACTION PLAN

Assessment and action planning requires respondents to assess their current activities and identify any specific actions needed to prevent pollution and improve water quality stewardship.

To create your own Stormwater Pollution Prevention Action Plan, please fill out the following checklist. If you have any questions, please contact the Carroll County NPDES Compliance Specialist at (410) 386-2220 or [redwards@ccg.carr.org](mailto:redwards@ccg.carr.org).

If you would like to take the additional step to become a Clean Water Partner, please review the process at the end of this assessment. You will be asked to provide a copy of the completed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Self-Checklist and Action Plan and verify when the action steps have been implemented.

### Business Information

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### Business Activities That Can Affect Water Quality

- ♣ Storing materials
- ♣ Preventing and cleaning up spills
- ♣ Maintaining Equipment and Vehicles
- ♣ Disposing of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)
- ♣ Maintaining buildings paved areas
- ♣ Maintaining landscapes
- ♣ Managing wastes

For more information, help, or guidance regarding your business, contact:

Carroll County Department of  
Land & Resource Management  
Phone: 410-386-2210



OR your municipality:

Hampstead	410-374-2761
Manchester	410-239-3200
Mount Airy	410-795-6012
New Windsor	410-635-6575
Sykesville	410-795-8959
Taneytown	410-751-1100
Union Bridge	410-775-2711
Westminster	410-848-9000

To report a concern about pollutants or possible illegal dumping into the storm drain system, contact:  
Carroll County Resource Management Bureau,  
Environmental Inspection Services Division  
Phone: 410-386-2210

For general information about stormwater pollution prevention, visit the "Protecting Carroll County Waters" webpage at:

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/npdes/>