



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Restaurants

**This fact sheet provides information and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for Restaurants.**

## Potential Pollutant Sources

The following activities are potential sources of pollution from restaurants:

- Dumpster area
- Equipment cleaning
- Grease handling and disposal
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance

Pollutants Include, but are not limited to:

- Bacteria
- Organic material (food wastes)
- Trash
- Oil and grease
- Toxic Chemicals (cleaners, disinfectants)

## Pollution Prevention

The following are effective pollution prevention activities:

- Use non-toxic cleaning substances,
- Reduce storm water flow across parking lots and redirect flow away from storm drains,
- Reduce the use of water to clean parking lots by using dry methods (sweeping),
- Recycle and reuse waste products, and
- Provide employee training for good housekeeping practices.

## Best Management Practices

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) definition of a BMP is a technique, process, activity, or structure used to reduce the pollutant content of a stormwater discharge. BMPs include simple, nonstructural methods, such as good housekeeping and preventive maintenance. BMPs may include sophisticated, structural modifications, such as sediment basins.

## Recommended BMPs

### General

- ⇒ Contain wash water. Do not dispose of in the gutter or street.
- ⇒ Maintain grounds.
- ⇒ Maintain good housekeeping practices on the site.

### Equipment Cleaning

- ⇒ Clean mats, filters and garbage cans in a sink or floor drain connected to the sewer with an oil and water separator. Pour all wash water in the mop sink. Do not wash in parking lot or on sidewalk.

### Dumpster Area

- ⇒ Use water tight receptacles and keep lid closed.
- ⇒ Bag and seal food waste before putting it in dumpster.
- ⇒ Clean up areas where leaking containers or bags spilled food wastes.
- ⇒ Grade the area to prevent run on of stormwater or Install low containment berms around the area.
- ⇒ Install a roof over the area
- ⇒ Empty dumpsters frequently.

### Grease Handling and Disposal

- ⇒ Recycle grease and oil.
- ⇒ Clean grease trap regularly.

### Spill Clean Up

- ⇒ Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- ⇒ Have a supply of spill clean up materials
- ⇒ Spot clean leaks and drips daily
- ⇒ Use very little water when cleaning up spills.
- ⇒ Keep spills from entering storm drains.