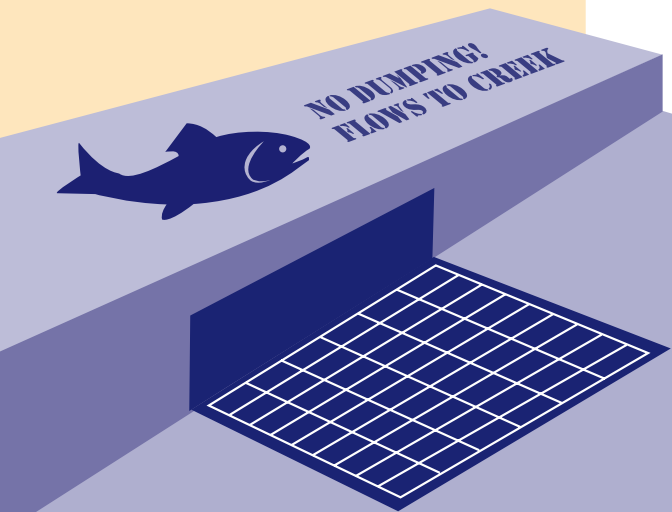


STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS  
SACRAMENTO  
STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



## PLEASE DON'T FEED THE FISH

*Waste disposal guidelines for food-handling facilities*



### QUESTIONS?

Contact your local stormwater agency or check out their website:

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| County of Sacramento   | (916) 875-RAIN (7246) |
| <a href="http://www.sactostormwater.org">www.sactostormwater.org</a> |                       |
| City of Sacramento   | (916) 433-6369        |
| <a href="http://www.sacstormwater.org">www.sacstormwater.org</a>     |                       |
| City of Elk Grove  | (916) 478-2232        |
| City of Citrus Heights   | (916) 727-4769        |
| City of Folsom   | (916) 355-7272        |
| City of Elk Grove  | (916) 478-2232        |
| City of Galt   | (209) 366-7260        |

For information on health and safety requirements for food facilities:

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| County of Sacramento            | (916) 875-8440 |
| Environmental Health Department |                |

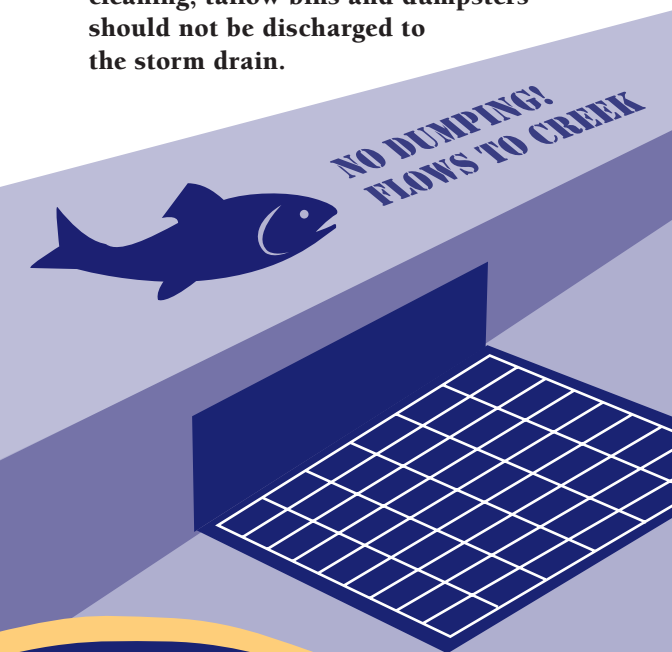
**NO DUMPING INTO STORM DRAINS!**

*Keeping pollutants from food facilities out of the storm drain helps the environment.*

**F**ood facilities include restaurants, cafeterias, bakeries, coffee shops and grocery stores. Discharging wastewater, grease and other materials into the storm drain is a violation of both California Health and Safety Code of county and city stormwater ordinances.

Everything washed into storm drains is untreated and ultimately ends up in our creeks and rivers. Food waste sent down storm drains not only create odors but help sustain populations of cockroaches, flies and rats. Substances such as detergents, cleansers and grease can be harmful to aquatic life. Even “biodegradable” cleansers can be harmful when discharged to the storm drain.

**Wastes from mop buckets, equipment cleaning, tallow bins and dumpsters should not be discharged to the storm drain.**



## STORM DRAINS VS. SANITARY SEWERS

*Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.*

**Storm drains** are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers. These are typically the drains found in streets and in parking lots.

**Sanitary sewers** collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged to the river.

## TRAINING

*Employees of food facilities should be trained in methods for keeping food pollutants out of the storm drains.*

The training should include education about the harmful effects of allowing wastewater and food waste to enter the storm drain.

## VISUAL REMINDERS

**Use the back of this flyer as a poster** to remind employees about the correct disposal methods.

**Stencil the storm drains** near your facility with a “no dumping” message. To obtain a stenciling kit, or for more information about controlling stormwater, call your local stormwater agency or check out its website (see back panel).

## MOP BUCKETS AND SINKS

- Never empty a mop bucket where it will drain into a storm drain. Always use the mop sink.
- Keep the mop sink accessible. Don't use it to store materials or equipment.



## SPILLS

- For outdoor spills, use a mop, rag or absorbent material (such as kitty litter) to clean spills.
- Always keep used absorbent material out of the storm drain. Don't let the absorbent material get saturated. Dispose of it by placing it in a sealed plastic bag and place it in the garbage dumpster.
- Store cleaning fluids indoors so leaks and spills can't reach storm drains.

## GREASE AND OIL

- Always use tallow bins to dispose of oils and greases.
- To minimize spills when transferring oil and grease to the tallow bin, use containers of adequate size that are equipped with spouts.
- Wipe spills as soon as possible. Use dry cleanup methods, such as kitty litter absorbents.
- Maintain grease traps to prevent overflows and have contents professionally hauled and disposed of; some interceptors may need to be refilled with water. For pumping and hauling companies refer to the yellow pages under “Septic Tanks and Systems.”



## GARBAGE DUMPSTERS

- Never dispose of liquids in the garbage dumpster.
- Keep the garbage dumpster drain closed and inspect for leaks on a regular basis.



- Keep the garbage dumpster lid closed and locked (if possible) to keep out rain and scavengers.
- When the garbage dumpster needs cleaning, call your solid waste hauler for cleaning or replacement.
- Use garbage bags.

## EQUIPMENT CLEANING

- Clean floor mats, garbage cans and other large pieces of equipment at a mop sink or interior floor drain approved by the Environmental Health Division.

*For items that are too large to be effectively cleaned indoors, consider the following options:*

- Construct a permanent wash pad that is properly connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Use a temporary containment area (see “Steam Cleaning Equipment” in the yellow pages).
- Hire a cleaning service that has the right equipment to properly dispose of wastewater.

## PRESSURE WASHING

- Water from pressure washing outside areas should be discharged to the sanitary sewer or otherwise properly disposed of without letting it flow down storm drains. Use dry cleanup methods to clean outside areas whenever possible.
- Restaurants that use outside companies to do their pressure washing are still responsible if cleaning water is improperly disposed of into the storm drain.

