

## Pinellas County stormwater regulations

Pinellas County's stormwater ordinance, Article VI, Chapter 58, is intended to protect the water quality and natural habitat of creeks, lakes and marine waters that receive discharge from our drainage system. The ordinance states that any discharge to the drainage system or to a waterway that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited. This means that pollutants of any kind, including contaminated wash water, food debris and cleaning materials may **not enter the street, stormdrain or gutter**. Violators of the stormwater ordinance may be fined up to \$10,000 per day, and payment for cleanup costs may be required.

## Only rain down the drain!

This brochure is one of a series describing urban pollution prevention measures. To request additional brochures, please contact Pinellas County Watershed Management at (727) 464-4425.

## For more information

on what YOU can do to keep our waterways clean, our watersheds healthy or to report pollution, call the **Watershed Management Hotline** at **(727) 464-4425** or email us at [watershed@pinellascounty.org](mailto:watershed@pinellascounty.org).



Pinellas County  
Environment and Infrastructure  
**Watershed Management**  
**(727) 464-4425**

[www.pinellascounty.org/environment](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment)



## Best Management Practices for Restaurants



## The Pollution Solution

## Restaurant best practices



Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants, such as contaminated wash water, cleaning materials, grease and food debris from entering our stormdrains and polluting our waterways:

**Don't:** Pour grease or oil into a sink, floor drain, sink drain, stormdrain or dumpster.

**Do:** All wastewater containing oil and grease must be disposed of in a grease trap or interceptor. Concentrated waste oil and grease must be collected in a grease bin and disposed of by a certified waste hauler.

**Don't:** Pour wash water outside or into a street gutter or stormdrain. This includes all mop water from cleaning floors, wash water from cleaning equipment, floor mats, grills and garbage cans.

**Do:** If your restaurant does not have a mop-sink that is connected to a sanitary sewer or an outdoor wash area that is plumbed to a sanitary sewer,

dedicate an area where there is a drain that is plumbed to a sanitary sewer to dispose of your wastewater.

**Don't:** Use your hose to clean outdoor areas. These areas can include drive-throughs, parking lots, outdoor eating areas and dumpster areas.

**Do:** Dry sweeping and using dry methods for spills are BMPs. Rags or absorbent materials can be used to pick up liquids or grease. Sweep it, seal it and dispose of it in the trash!



**Don't:** Wash down a dumpster or a grease bin with a hose.

**Do:** Always contact the leasing company when dumpster repair or cleaning is due. Additionally, check the dumpster regularly for leaks, keep lids closed and ensure that your dumpster has a drain plug that is properly functional and securely sealed.

Streets and stormdrains are part of the drainage system which protects developed areas from flooding. Everything that enters the streets and stormdrains flows directly into waterways without treatment and causes pollution.

## Why is this so important?

When restaurants do not control their waste products and materials, they enter our stormdrains which can lead to waterways and developed areas flooded with grease, oil and other toxins. Small steps help the big picture. Each of us can do the small things to help keep our water clean and that adds up to the pollution solution!

## Who can you contact?

To report illegal dumping, or for more information, call (727) 464-4425, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions on waste disposal, contact Pinellas County Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500. For 24 hour voicemail (non-emergency spills only), call (727) 464-5060.



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