Best Management Practices

Equipment Cleaning

Clean floor mats, garbage cans and other similarly sized pieces of equipment at a mop sink or interior floor drain that is connected to a sanitary sewer system.

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

 Construct a permanent wash pad that is bermed and properly connected to the sanitary sewer.

 Hire a cleaning service that has the right equipment to properly dispose of wastewater.



All liquid waste (including washwater) generated within a food handling facility or from equipment associated with the facility, must be discharged to a sanitary sewer or septic system. Soap, even biodegradable, is harmful to aquatic life.

Best Management Practices

Pressure Washing

Water from pressure washing outdoor areas may not be discharged to the storm drain. It must be contained and collected for proper disposal to the sanitary sewer or septic system.

Restaurants that use outside companies to do their pressure washing are still responsible if cleaning water is improperly disposed of into the storm drain.

More Stormwater Information

This brochure is one of a series of brochures describing storm water pollution prevention measures.

For more information about ways to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit our website: http://www.portjeff.com/village-information/environmental/stormwater-management/



This pamphlet was developed as part of the Village of Port Jefferson's Stormwater Management Program.

May 2012

© 2012

Stormwater Best
Management
Practices (BMPs)

Restaurants and Food Handling Facilities



Safe Environmental Habits and Methods for:

Restaurant Managers Food Store Managers

Overview

Food handling facilities, including coffee shops, restaurants, bakeries, and bars, must not allow the discharge of wastewater, grease, food-related wastes, and other materials from entering into the storm drain. It is a violation of State, County, and Village codes to allow these wastes to enter the storm drains.

Impacts

Everything washed into storm drain inlets flows untreated to our waterways. Food waste sent down storm drain inlets not only creates odors, but helps 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.

Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains flow directly into local waterways. Whatever you put down a storm drain is the same as putting it directly into a local creek or harbor. In Port Jefferson, we have over 900 storm drains - primarily designed to capture rainwater and divert it to local waterways.

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater - generally from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains. A series of underground pipes send the wastewater to a treatment plant where it is "cleaned" before being discharged to a local waterway. It should be noted that "clean" is a relative term. Treatment plants are designed to remove "solids" and are not designed to remove some chemical contaminants (e.g., pesticides, motor oil, grease). Such pollutants can bypass the plant and enter local waterways.

Best Management Practices

Visual Reminders

Affix markers to storm drains near your facility with a "no dumping" message to remind employees about proper disposal methods. Contact the Village's stormwater management program director to obtain storm drain markers free of charge.



Mop Buckets and Sinks

- Never empty a mop bucket outside or where it can drain into a storm drain.
- Always dump mop water into a mop sink, or other appropriate sink where food preparation is not performed.
- Keep the mop sink accessible. Don't use it to store materials or equipment.

Cleaning Spills and Drips

- For outdoor spills and drips, clean up promptly with a mop or absorbent material (such as kitty litter).
- Immediately following application, thoroughly sweep up used absorbent. It is illegal to allow absorbent to enter the storm drain.
- Dispose of used absorbent by placing in a plastic bag, tying the bag, and placing in a dumpster (as long as the spill is nonhazardous). Do not put loose absorbent in the dumpster.
- Store cleaning materials and chemicals indoors.

Best Management Practices

Grease and Oil

- Reduce the amount of grease washed down the drain by scraping off trays, grills, and pans into a grease can.
 Properly dispose of waste grease with a professional service company.
- Maintain grease traps and interceptors to prevent overflows by having them pumped regularly. Have the contents professionally managed by a service company.

Garbage Dumpsters

- Never dispose of liquids in garbage dumpsters. Inspect for leaks on a regular basis and have the bin replaced when necessary.
- Keep the garbage dumpster lid closed to keep out rain and rodents, and to prevent illegal dumping.
- When the dumpster needs cleaning, contact your solid waste hauler for replacement.
- Use garbage bags.
- Keep litter from accumulating around loading areas by providing trash receptacles and encouraging employees to use them.

