



Food Businesses

Make Clean Water Part of Your Business

Pollutants include food scraps, oil and grease, and cleaning chemicals



Your Business Can Help Protect Water Quality

In Eugene, the stormwater and wastewater collection systems are not connected. Anything that flows or is washed into a storm drain ends up directly in our local waterways—untreated—where it can harm fish and wildlife and pollute drinking water sources. When food waste and pollutants associated with food businesses enter the storm drainage system, the result is a polluted waterway. Routine activities such as cleaning greasy vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks can be sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken.

What's the Problem?

The most common pollutants associated with food-related businesses are oxygen-demanding substances (such as rotting food scraps), milk, grease and oil (from cooking food and delivery vehicles), and toxins (from cleaners, solvents, and degreasers). Other pollutants from food businesses include nutrients (from detergents and food scraps), sediments (from facilities with unpaved parking lots, landscaping materials or exposed soils), and automotive products such as fuels, brake liner dust and dirt from delivery vehicles.

- Fix and cover leaky dumpsters.
- Recycle or properly dispose of oil and grease waste
- Wash equipment and delivery vehicles only in a designated area that does not drain to the stormwater system
- Properly recycle, compost or dispose of food and chemical wastes.
- Promptly clean up outdoor spills.
- Never hose spills or pollutants into storm drains.

See the reverse side of this sheet for more specific clean water solutions.

If your business uses a service to remove fats, grease and oils from hoods, vents, or interior and exterior surfaces, be sure they know the rules for proper disposal:

- **Contain:** Properly contain grease, fats, and oils, along with the chemicals used to remove them from surfaces. Always clean equipment indoors. Cleaning agents are extremely toxic.
- **Capture:** Clean up spills immediately. No discharge from cleaning activities may enter storm drains or surfaces designed to flow to the stormwater system.
- **Dispose:** Wash water must be directed to an indoor sanitary drain that is plumbed to a grease removal device. Dispose of solid grease in grease dumpsters.



Clean Water Solutions

THE PROBLEM	THE SOLUTION
<p>Rotting food wastes wash from parking lots and streets into the stormwater drainage system. These include spilled milk, meat wrappers, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fix and cover leaky dumpsters and trash compactors. Keep lids closed to prevent rain from getting in and causing leakage. ● Prepare for and promptly clean up outdoor spills and wastes in the parking lot and the loading area. ● Properly recycle, compost or dispose of food and chemical wastes.
<p>Oil and grease from leaky dumpsters, cooking food, cleaning vents and delivery vehicles can smother aquatic life and clog drainage facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make sure your facility has a grease removal device and clean it regularly. ● Wash greasy equipment only in a designated wash area connected to the sanitary sewer system with a grease removal device. Do not dump oil or grease into dumpsters where they can leak. ● Store wastes so they can't leak or be washed into the drainage system. ● Recycle oil and grease wastes and properly store them before pickup; never dump them down storm drains or on the ground. ● Install and maintain an oil/water separator to treat parking lot runoff.
<p>Toxins from oven cleaners, floor cleaners, antifreeze, brake fluid, battery acid and solvents harm wildlife and people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain a clean, organized work area to minimize spills. ● Wash vehicles and delivery grates in a designated area that does not drain to the stormwater system. ● Properly store all materials and have a spill control plan. ● Properly dispose of or recycle all materials. ● Cover any fueling area to keep rain from washing away leaks or spilled fuel, and drain it to the sanitary sewer.
<p>Nutrients from detergents used to wash equipment and vehicles, food wastes, or soils enable algae to choke waterways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash in a designated area that does not drain to the stormwater system. ● Plant vegetation or pave exposed soils (depending on use) to prevent erosion. ● Properly dispose of or compost food wastes.
<p>Sediments washed from exposed soils and dirty paved parking lots clog storm drains, carry pollutants and harm wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean and maintain your business site; use a broom and dustpan on paved surfaces. Never hose pollutants into storm drains. ● Cover exposed soils. ● Stabilize eroding banks. ● Preserve and enhance streams and nearby vegetation.
<p>Metals from fuel and waste oil build up in creek sediment and cause aquatic deformities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cover containers and materials. ● Properly dispose of used oils and scrap metals. ● Cover and drain any fueling area. ● Plan for and control spills.



Need help?

Contact the City of Eugene's Industrial Pretreatment Program at (541)682-8600.