



# Storm Water Pollution Prevention

## Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the Food Service Industry

Food Services

### Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



### Food Industry Problems

The by-products of food-related businesses, including bakeries, cafeterias, cafes, caterers, delicatessens, restaurants, takeaways, and kitchens in clubs, hospitals, hotels, motels, nursing homes, schools and other commercial operations, can harm our creeks and lakes if they enter the storm drainage system.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMP's) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

### Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

**VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$5,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.**

Following the best management practices for the food service industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



### For More Information



To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding the food service industry call 704-336-5500 or visit <http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on pollution prevention. Please note that the Mecklenburg County Health Department will be monitoring potential sources of storm water pollution activities during regularly scheduled inspections of food service facilities.

**Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.**



Graphic courtesy San Bernardino County Stormwater Program.

## Grease and Oil

- ◆ Never pour grease into sink drain, storm drain or dumpster.
- ◆ Collect grease in covered, leak-free bins.
- ◆ Schedule regular pick-ups with local rendering service.

## Wash Water

- ◆ Pour mop water and wash water into the mop sink or down floor drains.
- ◆ Never pour wash water outside.
- ◆ Use an approved contract service to clean large kitchen floor mats. **DO NOT CLEAN OUTSIDE.**



Graphic courtesy San Bernardino County Stormwater Program.

## Dumpsters

- ◆ Keep dumpster lid closed.
- ◆ Keep dumpster area clean by inspecting regularly and sweeping up litter.
- ◆ Schedule regular pick-ups to avoid overfilling.
- ◆ Replace leaky dumpsters.
- ◆ Keep plug in dumpster.



Graphic courtesy San Bernardino County Stormwater Program.

## Spills

- ◆ Use dry methods for spill pick-up.
- ◆ Use rags or absorbents like cat litter and dispose of in the garbage.
- ◆ Do not hose down outside spills.
- ◆ Sweep sidewalks, parking lots and all other paved areas.



Graphic courtesy San Bernardino County Stormwater Program.

## Employee Training

- ◆ Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- ◆ Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- ◆ Report illegal dumping by calling 704-336-5500.
- ◆ Call 704-336-5500 for a kit to mark storm drains near your business with the message "Do Not Dump, Drains to Creek."



only rain goes down the storm drain

Visit [stormwater.charmeck.org](http://stormwater.charmeck.org) and click on pollution prevention for more information.

# Remember

