



The City of Omaha Stormwater Program is a comprehensive program comprised of various elements and activities designed to reduce stormwater pollution and eliminate prohibited non-stormwater discharges.



Environmental Quality Control

402-444-3908

www.OmahaStormwater.org

Funded By Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

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Keep It Clean In And Around Your Restaurant!

**Best Management Practices For
On-Site Stormwater Protection**



The Recipe For Preventing Stormwater Pollution

The continuous process of cooking and cleaning in and around restaurants increases the potential to create stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution is defined as anything other than rainwater entering storm inlets, as these inlets empty untreated water directly into local creeks, streams, and lakes.

By simply not allowing grease, food waste, trash, cleaning products, and wash water to enter storm inlets, restaurant owners and employees can make a big difference in the quality of our water and local wildlife habitats.

There are some proven Best Management Practices (BMPs) that restaurant owners and employees can implement to ensure they are not contributing to stormwater pollution:

- Do not pour grease down any sink, toilet, or storm inlet. Collect grease and dispose of it in a separate container designated specifically for grease.
- Scrape or wipe all pans and plates prior to washing them to prevent grease residue being washed down the drain.
- Make sure all sinks are equipped with grease traps or interceptors and cleaned regularly to avoid clogging and other costly repairs.
- If grease is spilled, use absorbent material to soak it up, then sweep the material up and dispose of it.
- If cooking or grilling outdoors, be sure to lay cardboard or a tarp under equipment and prep areas to capture grease, oil, or other spills.
- Keep all grease bins and dumpsters covered and in a contained area to prevent spills.



- When mopping floors and cleaning kitchen floor mats, do not pour any of the wash water into storm inlets or out onto pavement. Wash water must be disposed of down sanitary sewers.
- Frequently sweep and pick up any litter, including cigarette butts and food scraps, in outdoor eating areas and parking lots. Do not power wash or hose off these paved areas as this will move all the litter into the inlets.
- Regularly empty outdoor trash cans or recycling bins to prevent litter. Also, be sure the trash cans are covered and weighted so they will not tip easily.
- Provide proper receptacles or ashtrays for outdoor eating areas that allow smoking. Improperly discarded cigarette butts are litter and harmful to wildlife and our water quality.
- Train all employees to understand proper stormwater pollution prevention measures and post informative signs as a reminder.

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