



## STORMWATER COMPLIANCE FOR FAST FOOD FACILITIES AND MILITARY DINING FACILITIES

Military, civilian, and contract personnel working at food service facilities or dining facilities (DFACs) should be aware that the discharge of pollutants from their facilities' activities may directly or indirectly enter the storm drain system or surrounding water bodies. Such discharges are prohibited by law and can result in severe penalties. Pollutants of concern at food service facilities include fats, oil, grease, disinfectants, and degreasers.

This brochure can help you prepare for inspection from the State Department of Health or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Please review and familiarize yourself with the following food service facility management tips in order to avoid violations that could result in fines.

### ***Keeping pollutants from food facilities out of the storm drain helps the environment.***

Food facilities include restaurants, cafeterias, bakeries, coffee shops, and grocery stores. Discharging wastewater, grease, and other materials into the storm drain is a violation of both State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu stormwater ordinances.

Everything washed into storm drains is untreated and ultimately ends up in our streams and oceans.

Food waste sent down storm drains 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. Wastes from mop buckets, equipment cleaning, tallow bins, and dumpsters should not be discharged to the storm drain.

### **Storm drains vs. sanitary sewers**

*Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.*

Storm drains are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems, including the drains and curb inlets found in streets and in parking lots, do not remove pollutants from stormwater before it is discharged into streams and water bodies.

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains and transport it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from the wastewater before it is discharged to the stream or ocean.

### **Visual reminders**

Use this flyer as a poster to remind employees about proper disposal methods.

Install a marker on the storm drains near your facility with a "Dump No Waste/Goes to Ocean" message. To obtain a marker, call the Directorate of Public Works Clean Water Program (phone number provided on back).

### **Mop buckets and sinks**

- Never empty a mop bucket where it will drain into a storm drain. Always use the mop sink.

- Keep the mop sink accessible. Don't use it to store materials or equipment.

### **Spills**

- For outdoor spills, use dry sweep or other absorbent material to clean up the spill.
- Always keep used absorbent material out of the storm drain. Don't let the absorbent material get saturated. Dispose of it by placing it in a sealed plastic bag that is then placed in the garbage dumpster.
- Store cleaning fluids indoors so leaks and spills can't reach storm drains.



### **Grease and oil**



- Always use the 55-gallon drums to dispose of oil and grease. Drums should be placed on secondary containment and under a roof or eave. Always fasten and secure

the bung cover.

- To minimize spills when transferring oil and grease to the 55-gallon drum, use large funnels or smaller, more manageable transfer containers.
- Clean spills immediately. Use dry cleanup methods, such as dry sweep or other absorbents.
- Maintain secondary containment to prevent overflows by absorbing grease and draining water.



### **Garbage dumpsters**

- Never dispose of liquids in the garbage dumpster.
- Keep the garbage dumpster drain closed and inspect for leaks on a regular basis.
- Keep the garbage dumpster lid closed and locked (if possible) to keep out rain and scavengers.
- Use garbage bags.

### Equipment cleaning

- Clean floor mats, garbage cans and other large pieces of equipment at a mop sink or interior floor drain.
- Do not clean food pans outdoors or wash food into the storm drain inlet.

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

- Construct a covered wash pad that is properly connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Hire a cleaning service that has the right equipment to properly dispose of wastewater.

### Pressure washing

- Do not pressure wash outside areas. Use dry cleanup methods instead. It is prohibited to wash food, oil, grease, and other wastes into the storm drain.

### The sanitary sewer

It may be advisable to discharge wash water generated at your facility into the sanitary sewer, since it is prohibited to discharge it into the storm drain system. However, restrictions also apply to sanitary sewer discharges. Hazardous wastes may never be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Facilities with floor drains, grease traps, and oil water separators must comply with their Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit.

### Education and training

Your success in following these guidelines depends on an effective training program.

Train all military, civilian, and contract personnel upon hiring and annually thereafter on stormwater compliance, personal safety, hazardous material management, and proper methods for handling and disposing of hazardous waste. Ensure that all employees understand appropriate disposal methods for different types of waste.

### Call for more information

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS	
Emergency Spill Line:	656-1111
Recycle Center:	655-0011
Clean Water Program:	656-3317 / 3086
Hazardous Material Control Point:	656-0720
Hazardous and Non-Regulated Waste Pickup:	656-0866
Hazardous Waste Program Manager:	656-7001
Environmental Training:	656-3088
Environmental Inspections:	656-3088
AQUA ENGINEERS	
Main Office	621-3098

### Consequence management

- The way we perform work at our facility will produce an outcome. The Army's goal is to always be in compliance with stormwater regulations.
- The State Department of Transportation (SDOT) received a Notice of Violation from the EPA and the State Department of Health. Some of the violations included allowing vehicle wash water to enter the storm drain system; allowing oily water to enter the storm drain system; and allowing storm water to flow through a debris stockpile.
- In 2005, the SDOT entered into a compliance agreement costing \$52 million over a 4 year period. The agreement forced changes in their business process.
- If the Army were to receive a similar fine, the consequences could include reduced facility repairs, stricter control and documentation of facility operations, and increased inspections from regulators. The Army wants your facility and its personnel to be stormwater compliant to avoid fines and further restrictions.

Reference: Sacramento Stormwater Management Program, "Waste disposal guidelines for food-handling facilities", not dated.

Version: Feb 2012