

STORMWATER IS 'NOT' TREATED

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm system is not connected to a treatment plant. There are two separate systems for dealing with wastewater and stormwater runoff.

First, the sanitary system handles wastewater from your home (sinks, toilets, tubs/showers, dishwashers). This wastewater is connected to a treatment plant that removes contaminants before it is released.

Second, the storm drain system is designed to carry storm water runoff from your yard, parking lots, and streets. This runoff water drains directly to creeks, streams, bays, and bayous.

What this means is that anything spilled, poured, or dumped on a yard, parking lot, or street will be carried to the storm drain and will empty into our creeks, streams and lakes. Since stormwater is not treated before it reaches our local waterways, it is important for us to prevent pollution at its source—our backyards, work places and schools.

This information provided by:

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12951 Bandera Road Web: www.helotes-tx.gov
Helotes, TX 78023

More information can be obtained at
www.epa.gov/hpdes/stormwater
www.tceq.state.tx.us
or visit the City of Helotes website at
www.helotes-tx.gov.

PO Box 507
12951 Bandera Road
Helotes, TX 78023



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



*Restaurants and Food
Service Facilities*

STORMWATER ISSUES

Many of the cleaning practices restaurants use will cause stormwater quality impairments once the water is allowed to leave the property. Cleaning practices that allow grease, food waste, trash and cleaning products to flow into the storm drain system contribute directly to the impairment of our waterbodies. Some of the types of waste generated at restaurants and food service facilities include:

- ◆ Fats, oils and grease
- ◆ Floor solvents
- ◆ Cleaning agents
- ◆ Cigarette butts
- ◆ Food waste
- ◆ Paper napkins
- ◆ Styrofoam

Fluid spills and improper disposal of materials result in bacteria, grease and oils, and trash that may be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried to the nearest storm drain. Anything that enters the storm drain system, including automotive waste and wash water, flows untreated into our streams and creeks and ends up in our lakes and rivers.

By following the guidelines in this brochure, your business can help prevent stormwater pollution.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The objective in stormwater protection is that only rain goes down the storm drain. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities in a restaurant or food service facility. The BMPs address not only direct flow of pollutants to storm drains, but also “threatened discharges” where there is a high probability for stormwater pollution (such as any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up). All restaurant and food service facility staff should review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

- ◆ Connect all sink drains to the sanitary sewer system to prevent grease and liquid waste from entering the storm drain system.



- ◆ Indoor cleaning should be done using a mop sink or floor drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer system. Never pour dirty water out the back door and into the storm drain system.

- ◆ NEVER pour grease, oil, or large quantities of oily liquids such as sauces or salad dressings down a sink, floor drain, storm drain or into a dumpster.

- ◆ Regular maintenance and service of your sewer lateral and grease trap interceptor will help prevent sewer overflows to the storm drain system.



- ◆ Recycle grease and oil and request pick-up service regularly so the dumpster does not overflow.

- ◆ Keep spill containment kits ready and stored in convenient locations in case of a spill.



- ◆ Clean floor mats, exhaust filters, garbage cans, carts or tray racks in a janitor/utility/mop sink or floor area with a drain connected to the sanitary sewer.



- ◆ Locate the storm drain inlets on your property, clean them regularly and never dump anything down the storm drain.

- ◆ Keep the area around outdoor trash bins litter free. Customers and employees are more likely to use them when they are kept clean.

- ◆ Don't put liquids in your dumpster or rinse it out; request a dumpster exchange from your waste hauler instead. Keep dumpster lids closed to prevent rain from entering.



- ◆ Frequently sweep outside areas, including parking lots, outdoor eating areas, drive-thru areas and trash/grease bin areas. Avoid hosing them down.



- ◆ High pressure washing or hosing of parking lots and sidewalks must be contained, recaptured and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system.

Only rain down the drain!
Storm drains connect to waterbodies!