

# Best Management Practices for Restaurants

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. Just remember, "only rain in the storm drain."

Activities	Best Management Practices
<b>Pavement Cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris. Dispose of debris in the garbage.</li><li>• If outdoor pavement cleaning with detergent is required, collect wash water (mop it up) and dispose of it in indoor sinks or drains that discharge through a grease interceptor (trap) to the sanitary sewer.</li><li>• Use commercial pavement/parking lot cleaning companies that will clean and collect the wash water.</li></ul>
<b>Equipment Cleaning (dumpsters, floor mats, exhaust filters, etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer. Waste water with floating oils or visible grease needs to go through a grease interceptor.</li><li>• If outdoor cleaning is required, collect wash water and dispose of it in indoor sinks or drains for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Floating oil and/or greasy water needs to go through an oil/grease interceptor (trap).</li></ul>
<b>Spill Cleanup in Outdoor Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have spill cleanup kits ready in case of a spill, and store kits in convenient locations.</li><li>• Clean up any spills immediately using rags, cat litter, or any other type of absorbent in your spill kit.</li><li>• If you must mop up a spill, dispose of wash water in a sink that is connected to a grease interceptor (trap).</li></ul>
<b>Grease Handling and Disposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Store grease in covered containers. Use a tallow company to recycle the grease. Small amounts of grease can be placed in a non-leaking container and placed in the trash.</li></ul>
<b>Waste Disposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspect dumpsters daily. Look for spills and leakage. Clean up using dry methods. Repair leaking or damaged dumpsters.</li><li>• Keep dumpsters and other waste containers closed to prevent stormwater from entering the container.</li><li>• Do not place chemicals in dumpsters, into sink drains or into the storm drain. Call City of Gilroy Chemical Control to determine if a chemical product or waste material may need to be disposed of as hazardous.</li></ul>
<b>Litter Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide an adequate number of trash receptacles for your customers and employees.</li><li>• Pick up litter and other wastes daily from outside areas including storm drain inlet grates.</li></ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Train employees regularly on how to clean equipment and clean up spills.</li><li>• Stencil dumpster areas and storm inlets to discourage illegal dumping.</li><li>• Train employees to inspect your property for proper BMPs.</li></ul>

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## How Do Restaurants Cause Pollution?

All restaurants can adopt common-sense practices that require modest changes to routine operations or maintenance procedures to reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. The table on the back of this brochure identifies activities restaurants can adopt to control or eliminate urban runoff pollution.

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and the Monterey Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to the storm drains is illegal.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention, contact the City of Gilroy Chemical Control Program. It is located in Gilroy's City Hall, as part of the Building, Life and Environmental Safety (BLES) Division of Community Development.

## City of Gilroy Chemical Control Program

7351 Rosanna Street  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
Phone (408) 846-0439



Stormwater runoff goes into Monterey Bay, which is home to wildlife, including the sea otter.



## South County Regional Wastewater Authority Chemical Control-Pretreatment Program, Serving Morgan Hill and Gilroy

**The Goal of the Program** is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems, local creeks, and the Monterey Bay.

**The Storm Drain System** was built to collect and transport rainwater to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or the Monterey Bay without any treatment.

**The Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated. The sewer plant is not designed to take concentrated wastes, only waste water with minor amounts of pollutants. Fats, oils and grease are difficult for the plant to treat. The collection system (pipes that go to the plant) can get clogged by grease, which can cause overflows of sewage into the street and storm drain.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

**Grease Interceptors or Traps** are devices that can be as small as a metal box under the dishwashing sink or as large as a concrete tank buried underground. These devices have compartments that allow the oil and grease to float, letting the water flow into the sanitary sewer. These devices need to be sized correctly and the grease removed periodically to keep them working properly.

**Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections** discharge non-stormwater to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

**Urban Runoff** is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

