

# Waste - Cleaning - Spills

## Best Management Practices for Businesses

The following information can help you identify potential problems that may exist at your facility & the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can minimize or prevent the discharge of pollutants into storm drainage systems from dumpsters, trash compactors, & other activities.

### Dumpsters & Trash Compactors

Potential Problem: Liquid waste, hydraulic fluid, litter, & garbage can flow or wash away with rainwater to the stormwater system.

Follow these BMPs to reduce the likelihood of this occurrence:

- ✓ Minimize the amount of liquid placed in dumpsters or compactors by:
  - Draining liquid food wastes to the sanitary sewer
  - Placing only the empty containers in the dumpster or compactor
  - Using a screen or colander to remove solids from liquid waste (liquid waste goes to the sanitary sewer, & solid waste goes to the trash)
- ✓ Keep dumpster lids closed to keep out rainwater
- ✓ Route leaks & other wastewaters from dumpsters & compactors to the sanitary sewer system
- ✓ Control litter:
  - Make sure waste is contained in dumpsters & compactors
  - Sweep dumpster & compactor area regularly
- ✓ Regularly inspect dumpsters, trash compactors, & disposal area for:
  - Leaks or stains. If leaks or stains are found, immediately replace leaking dumpsters & compactors or repair the problem.
  - Litter. Pick up litter & dispose of it properly.
- ✓ Train employees on proper methods of handling & disposing of waste, & using other applicable BMPs.

### Cleaning & Washing Activities

Potential Problem: Washwater with contaminants (soap, dirt, grease, oil, or food) dumped or washed into the storm system.

Follow these BMPs:

- ✓ Clean equipment (e.g., roof vents, stove vents, grills, carts, floor mats, garbage cans, tray racks) in a designated wash area that **DOES NOT discharge to the storm drains**.
- ✓ If the designated wash area is outdoors, collect & pump the washwater to the sanitary sewer.
- ✓ Temporary cleaning areas must be adequate to contain all washwater.
- ✓ Discharge washwater to the sanitary sewer system when cleaning flat surfaces such as parking lots & loading docks.
  - Sweep the area before washing.
  - If wet cleaning is required, block the storm drain or contain the washwater before it enters the storm drain & then discharge the washwater to the sanitary sewer system.
  - If **no soap or chemicals (including those marked “biodegradable”)** are used, washwater from sidewalks, plazas, & building surfaces may be discharged to landscaping (or to the storm drain **only if** the drain has a "20 mesh" fabric or screen filter. Dispose of captured material in the trash.)

## Other Maintenance Practices

Potential Problem: Oil, hydraulic fluids, grease, coolant, & other fluids on the ground from storage or maintenance of heavy equipment (e.g., forklifts, vehicle equipment, refrigerator units, etc.) can wash away with rainwater to storm drains, detention systems, ponds, or swales.

Follow these BMPs:

- ✓ Maintain equipment regularly: Check for leaks or stains, & fix leaks immediately.
- ✓ Capture leaks & drips during maintenance activities with a drip pan.
- ✓ If equipment is stored outside, provide a tarp or roof to protect the equipment from rainfall.

## Spill Control Measures

Potential Problems: Waste foods, garbage, & grease spillage being dumped, washed, or allowed to flow or wash away with rainwater to parking lots, storm drains, detention systems, ponds, or swales.

Follow these BMPs:

- ✓ Dispose of waste food & garbage in the dumpster or trash compactor.
- ✓ Be prepared for spills:
  - Develop spill procedures for different types of liquid spills (garbage, liquid food wastes, fuel, etc.).
  - Train employees on cleanup procedures.
  - Keep cleanup kits in well-marked, easily accessible areas.
  - If you mop up a spill, dispose of mop washwater appropriately in indoor sinks for discharge to the sanitary sewer.

REMEMBER: YOUR FACILITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTRACTORS YOU HIRE.

### Be sure to:

- ✓ *Confirm the contractor has received proper training for pollution prevention.*
- ✓ *Know how your contractor will be cleaning your equipment & disposing of the washwater.*



**For more information, contact:  
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360 - 779 - 4078**

