

# FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES

## Best Management Practices

Stormwater Management Program  
City of Bluff City  
P.O. Box 70, Bluff City, TN 37618  
423-538-7144

*This document may be printed and used for reference by  
Food Service Facility Operators and Employees*

### Best Management Practices for Food Service Facility Operators

1. **Sidewalks, gutters, plazas, alleyways, outdoor eating areas, steps, building exteriors, walls, and driveways** may be cleaned with water provided that one of the following methods is used:

#### Method A

- a) Clean up spills using dry absorbent materials;
- b) Next, sweep up debris, trash, cigarette butts, dirt, leaves, and other particles;
- c) Then, mop with minimal amounts of water only—**no soap or cleansers**.

#### Or Method B

- a) First, clean up spills using absorbent materials;
- b) Next, pick up large debris;
- c) Then, place a screen in the nearest downstream catch basin. The screen should be made of expanded metal and have a metal hem on the perimeter. The mesh size must be a 1/2 inch size or less. The screen must be sufficiently large to cover the entire catch basin;
- d) Mop or hose down (using a regular garden hose) the area without soap or cleansers. This method does not apply if pressure washing or steam cleaning equipment is used, or if hand scrubbing is conducted;
- e) Lastly, remove the screen as soon as the wash water has drained through. Screens may not be left in the catch basin in between cleaning events. The screen should be cleaned after each use and the debris discarded in the trash.

#### Or Method C

a) Pressure washing, steam cleaning, and hand scrubbing may be conducted if the wastewater is collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer. **This wastewater may not runoff into the street or be discharged into the storm drain system.**

**2. Do not clean floor mats, equipment or exhaust filters in an outside area where wash water may flow to a street, gutter, catch basin, storm drain, or waterway. Floor mats may be washed in an outdoor area only if ALL of the following conditions are met:**

- the area has a drain appropriately plumbed to the sanitary sewer,
- the area is enclosed, sloped or bermed to prevent discharge to the storm drain and to prevent excess storm water from running into the sanitary sewer drain,
- the area's sanitary sewer drain must have a grate or screen to retain particles larger than one half inch, and
- there is no chance that the wash water will runoff into a parking lot, alley, street, gutter, catch basin, storm drain, or creek.

- 3. Floor and window cleaning wastewater (including mop water) may not be discharged to a street or the storm drain system.** Be sure that employees or a hired cleaning service dispose of these wastes into the sanitary sewer.
- 4. Cleaning solvents may not be used outside to clean ground surfaces,** such as sidewalks, walkways, plazas, patios, driveways, loading docks, delivery areas, or dumpster areas, unless the solvent is cleaned up and properly disposed of.
- 5. Wastewater from the cleaning of parking lots, loading docks and delivery areas may not be discharged to the street or storm drain system, or left as “standing” water.** Wash water from these areas must be discharged to the sanitary sewer in accordance with the Sewer Use ordinance. Loading dock and delivery areas must be kept clean and free of food waste and debris at all times.
- 6. If water is used to remove paint or graffiti from building exteriors, walls, steps, signs, and other surfaces, the wastewater and paint particles may not be discharged to the street or storm drain system.** This wastewater may be discharged to the sanitary sewer if the paint does not contain lead and the large paint particles are filtered out prior to discharge. (If the paint contains lead, please call the Sullivan County Solid Waste Department at (423) 279-2865 for disposal information.)
  - If blasting or sanding is used to remove paint or graffiti, the paint particles, blasting material, sand, or dust may not be allowed to reach the storm drain system.
- 7. Grease traps and interceptors must be cleaned at least as frequently as required by the City. When cleaning a grease trap or interceptor, the entire contents must be removed.**
- 8. Waste cleaned from grease traps of 100# size or greater must be hauled and disposed of by a licensed liquid waste hauler.**
- 9. Keep grease trap/interceptor cleaning logs or receipts for the past year posted on site and easily available for inspection by City stormwater inspectors.**

- 10. Never dispose of grease trap or grease interceptor waste into a storm drain, to the environment, or to the sanitary sewer.** Save recyclable oil, grease, and meat fat in a tallow bin or other sealed container.
  - **Any spills or leaks from tallow bins or grease containers** must be cleaned up immediately using the following procedure:
    - Use dry cleanup methods to absorb leaks and spills,
    - Sweep up litter and debris, and
    - If necessary, spot clean or mop with minimal amounts of water and dispose of the water via the sanitary sewer.
- 11. All solid and liquid wastes, such as tallow, must be stored and transferred in watertight covered containers.**
- 12. Do not place leaking containers or garbage bags into a dumpster.**
- 13. Dumpster and garbage can lids must be kept on securely.** Do not allow trash to spill out or overflow the dumpster or garbage can.
- 14. Wastewater from the cleaning of garbage dumpster areas and areas where trash is stored or contained may not be discharged to or allowed to reach the street or storm drain system. In addition, the wastewater may not be left as “standing” water.** This wastewater must be discharged to the sanitary sewer in accordance with the Sewer Use Ordinance. Also, leakage from dumpsters or trash containers may not be discharged to or allowed to reach the storm drain system.
- 15. Wash water from the cleaning of exhaust filters must be discharged through a grease trap or an interceptor.**
- 16. Storm drains must be kept free of leaves, dirt, and debris.**
- 17. All employees are expected to be trained on the Best Management Practices for Food Service Facilities prior to engaging in any related activities.** Businesses are responsible for ensuring that employees and hired contractors know and abide by these BMPs.

# **Recommended Best Management Practices Food Service Employees**

## **Cleaning Floor Mats, Exhaust Filters, and Equipment**

Never clean floor mats, exhaust filters, or equipment in an area where the wash water may flow to a street, gutter, catch basin, storm drain, or waterway!

- Clean equipment in an indoor area such as a mop sink or pot sink. A floor area may be used if there is a drain connected to the sanitary sewer via an interceptor.
- Clean equipment in a covered, bermed outdoor area with a drain connected to the sanitary sewer. Do not allow food waste to accumulate in this area.
- Check floor drains to ensure that they do not discharge to the storm drain system.

## **Kitchen Oil, Grease Handling and Disposal**

Never pour oil or grease, or other fatty liquid anywhere outside or into a sink, floor drain, or storm drain.

- Strain or drain meats so that the drippings may be placed in tallow containers. Do not strain or drain meats into a sink or any other drain leading to the storm drain or sanitary sewer.
- When cleaning kitchen pans and equipment, be sure that food particles and grease/oil are wiped into the trash prior to washing or placing in a dishwasher.
- Do not contaminate recyclable fats with waste grease from an interceptor or trap unless permitted by your waste hauler.
- Be sure that waste grease is disposed of properly. Ask your waste hauler where your waste grease is disposed.

## **Alleys, Dumpsters, and Garbage Areas**

Use only dry methods when cleaning up alleys, dumpsters, and garbage areas. Never discharge water from dumpsters or garbage areas to the storm drain system!

- Keep dumpsters or the dumpster enclosure locked to prevent illegal dumping.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely. If your dumpster is leaking or needs a cleaning, call the City of Bluff City Customer Service for Water, Sewage, and Garbage (if the dumpster is rented through the City's garbage service) at # 538-7144. The City will repair leaks and clean each City rented dumpster once per year for free. If your dumpster is not a City rented dumpster, then call the dumpster leasing company.
- Keep spill cleanup materials handy near the dumpsters and garbage areas.

## **Spill Cleanup**

Do not hose down spills into the street, gutter or a storm drain.

- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.
- Clean up spills immediately. Be sure that the spill has been stopped at its source. If spilled fluids might enter a storm drain, protect the drain with sandbags, absorbent rags, or a pile of dirt.
- Use a mop, rags or granular absorbents (e.g. cat litter) to absorb spills. Dry sweep and dispose of used absorbent in the garbage as long as hazardous materials have not been spilled.

### **Cooling and Refrigeration Equipment Maintenance**

Make sure all discharges from cooling and refrigeration equipment go to the sanitary sewer and not to the street or storm drain.

- Be sure that your maintenance person or contractor is knowledgeable and skilled at minimizing corrosion with correct chemical treatments.

### **Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance**

Never dispose of leftover pesticides in the gutter, street, or storm drain! Pesticides must be either used up or disposed of as a hazardous waste.

- Do not blow or rake leaves, grass, or garden clippings into the street, gutter, catch basin, or storm drain.
- If you use pesticides or herbicides, do not over apply them or apply if rain is forecast.
- Dispose of unwanted pesticides and herbicides as hazardous waste.

### **Education and Training**

Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on personal safety, chemical management, and proper methods for handling and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water and wastewater discharge requirements including these Best Management Practices. Use a training log to document employee training.

- Be sure that all contractors, hired to clean inside or outside of your facility, implement the Best Management Practices and are familiar with your facility's written procedure to comply with these requirements.

**Call the City's Stormwater Coordinator  
for more information at:  
423-538-7144**

Please remember to contact City Hall, at 538-7144, prior to making any plumbing changes!