

Protect Our Waterways

Water that flows into local waterways and storm drains flow directly into our rivers, creeks, sloughs, and the Delta, rather than our treatment plant, and carry with it many pollutants that are harmful to humans and wildlife.

Restaurants play a unique role in helping to protect the Delta and surrounding waterways. By following these best management practices, our Delta and surrounding waterways will be available for future generations to enjoy.

*Only Rain Down the
Storm Drain!*



Mercury Awareness

Mercury pollution in stormwater runoff is a leading cause of waterway impairment. In high quantities, mercury can be harmful to humans. High levels of mercury are partly caused by the improper disposal of:

- Fluorescent lights (including CFLs)
- Electrical switches
- Thermometers
- Pressure and vacuum gauges

San Joaquin County residents can drop off these waste items for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

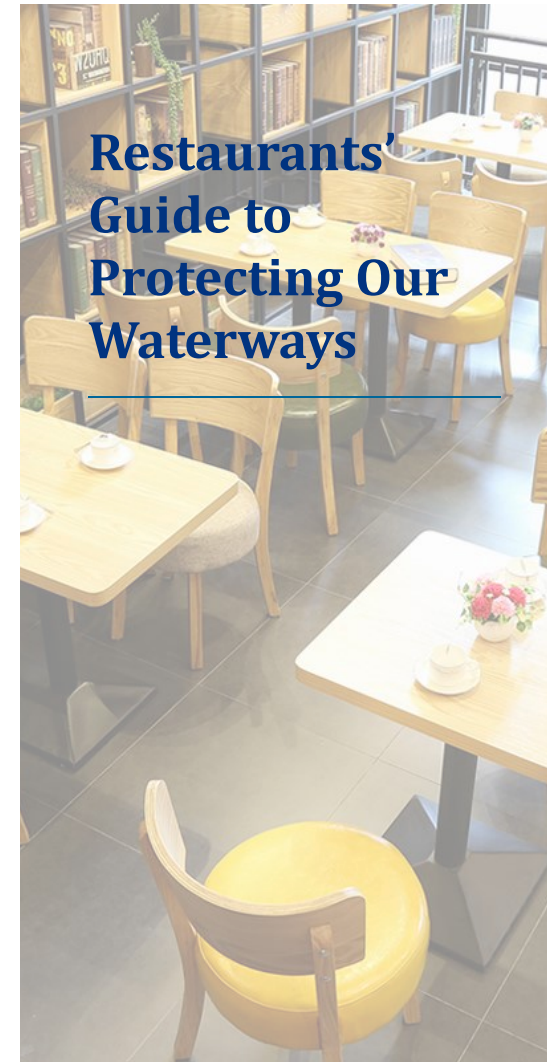
7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

City of Stockton Municipal Utilities
Department Stormwater Program:
209.937.8700

2500 Navy Drive
Stockton, CA 95206
www.stocktonca.gov/mud

San Joaquin County Stormwater Program:
866.755.4955

Restaurants' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways






Restaurants' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways

Facilities that prepare and serve food can help protect our local waterways, wildlife, and habitats.




Organic materials (food wastes), trash, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals, such as cleaning products and disinfectants, can end up in waterways and pollute the environment.

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are a cost-effective way to reduce pollution at food service facilities.





General

-  Vacuum or sweep. If water is used for cleaning floors and outdoor areas, contain the wash water and dispose in the sanitary sewer. Do not dispose of wash water in the gutter, storm drain, or street.
-  Maintain facility grounds. Move or cover activities and materials to prevent contact with stormwater.
-  Label storm drains within your facility boundary.


Areas Maintenance

-  Provide trash and recycling bins to keep litter from accumulating around loading docks.
-  Bag and seal food waste before putting it in the dumpster. Do not place uncontained liquids, leaking containers, or garbage bags into a dumpster.
-  Keep dumpster lids closed to keep out rainwater and prevent trash from spilling out. Consider enclosing the dumpster in a roofed and contained area.












-  Properly size your dumpster, and do not let it overflow.
-  If your dumpster is hosed out for cleaning, remove the floatable trash and debris then direct the wash water to the landscape or the sanitary sewer.
-  Have the dumpster leasing company repair or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors.
-  Keep dumpsters or the dumpster enclosure locked to prevent illegal dumping.

Equipment Cleaning







-  Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink, floor drain, or proper outside area connected to the sanitary sewer with an approved grease interceptor. Pour all wash water into the mop sink. Do not wash items in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk, street, gutter, or storm drain.

Grease Handling and Disposal

-  Recycle grease and oil. Do not contaminate the recyclable oils and grease in the tallow bin with the waste grease from the grease trap or grease interceptor.
-  Keep grease that is stored outside contained and under a roof.
-  Clean grease traps regularly.

-  Properly dispose of waste grease from the grease trap or grease interceptor by using a licensed septic company.
-  Dispose of toxic waste properly. Toxic wastes include used cleaners and rags soaked with solvents, floor cleaners, and detergents.
-  Never dispose of unused pesticides into a dumpster, sewer, gutter, or storm drain. Leftover pesticides must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
-  Consider implementing an Integrated Pest Management system to reduce or eliminate the use of toxic pesticides.
-  If you use pesticides, do not overapply nor apply when rain is forecasted.
-  Do not blow or rake leaves, grass, or garden clippings into the streets, gutters, or storm drains.

Spill Cleanup

-  Keep a stockpile of spill cleanup materials readily available.
-  Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
-  Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
-  Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
-  Keep the spill from entering streets, gutters, and storm drains.
-  Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility that rinse water could flow to streets, gutters, or storm drains.