

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

STORMWATER COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS AT *RESTAURANTS*

Purpose This Compliance Assistance Bulletin will help restaurant and food facility operators understand and comply with Stormwater Program requirements, as well as prepare for inspections.

Background State regulations require that Sacramento County and Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento maintain a stormwater compliance program.

Common restaurant-related pollutants including detergents, cleaning chemicals, food waste, grease, oil, liquids from dumpsters, mop water, and pressure washing wastewater are frequently discharged into the storm drainage system. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system, they are discharged untreated into our creeks and rivers, where they cause harm to aquatic life, degrade water quality, clog underground pipes, and contribute to increased rodent and insect activity due to accumulation of food, grease, and debris in storm drain catch basins.

The storm drainage system includes storm drains, roadside gutters and ditches, drainage channels and swales, as well as creeks and streams.

**Inspections/
Frequency** Your Environmental Specialist (Health Inspector) will conduct a Stormwater Compliance Inspection in conjunction with your routine restaurant inspection once every three years.

**Typical
Areas of
Concern**

- **Dumpsters:** Lids must be closed when not in use. Containers must be leak-free, with no accumulation of trash, litter, and debris on the ground.
- **Tallow (Grease/Oil) Bins:** Lids must be closed when not in use, no accumulation of grease on the ground or near the storm drain. Any spills must be promptly addressed and cleaned in a manner that prevents discharge into the storm drainage system.
- **Outdoor Storage:** Waste or other materials must be contained and managed to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the storm drainage system.
- **Indoor Drains:** Drains must be plumbed to the sanitary sewer or approved private sewage disposal system.
- **Outdoor Interceptors:** Grease interceptor must be maintained and kept in good working condition to prevent overflow of grease to the storm drainage system.
- **Waste Water Management:** Wastewater from equipment cleaning, mats, surfaces, and pressure washing activities -including contractor services- must be collected before entering the storm drainage system or leaving the property, and discharged to the sanitary sewer. For more information, refer to Best Management Practices for Pressure Washing guide available on the Department's website at EMD.SACCOUNTY.GOV.

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- **Storm Drains:** The areas in and around storm drains should be free of accumulated food waste, mop strings, wastewater, detergents, grease, oil, and other items.
 - **Roof Top Equipment:** Equipment must be maintained to prevent grease and other non-stormwater discharges.

**Corrective
Action**

Stormwater violations will result in a **Notice of Violation** requiring corrections and submission of proof of compliance within a given time frame. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Failure to comply may result in progressive enforcement action based on the severity and duration of the violation. Fines of up to a maximum of \$5000 per violation are authorized by local ordinance.

**Questions
and
Answers**

What is the difference between storm drains and sanitary sewers?

The storm drain system directs untreated water into creeks, rivers, and oceans, causing water pollution and is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. The sanitary sewer system directs water to a treatment plant where it is treated prior to discharge. Drains located in streets and parking lots are storm drains. Outdoor drains rarely lead to the sanitary sewer.

Why should I be concerned about stormwater and storm drains?

Water pollution is everyone's business and should be a major concern for all residents. Polluted stormwater is a major source of contamination in our creeks and rivers.

Will another inspector, in addition to my regular Health Inspector, visit my restaurant to conduct a stormwater inspection?

No, your Health Inspector (Environmental Specialist) will conduct both the food inspection and the stormwater inspection, thereby providing an efficient and cost-effective response to State and Federal mandates.

Will I have to post my Stormwater Inspection Report?

No, only the Food Inspection Report must be available on-site. Stormwater inspection reports are not required to be posted or maintained on-site.

**For More
Information**

Call (916) 875-8440 or go to the Department website EMD.SACCOUNTY.GOV.