

POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF

Factsheet for Restaurants



After it rains, water flows off our yards, streets, parking lots, and driveways into the storm drains, and eventually into our streams, lakes, and bays. Unfortunately, this runoff picks up pollutants that flow directly into our local waterways. These pollutants can include soil, motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and litter. Many people mistakenly think that the water entering from our storm drains is cleaned or treated in some way. On the contrary, our storm drain systems channel water directly into our creeks. If our runoff water and stormwater is contaminated, it can become a major source of water pollution. This factsheet series is broken into seven different user groups who can help prevent stormwater from becoming polluted.

Builders/Developers

Gardeners/Homeowners

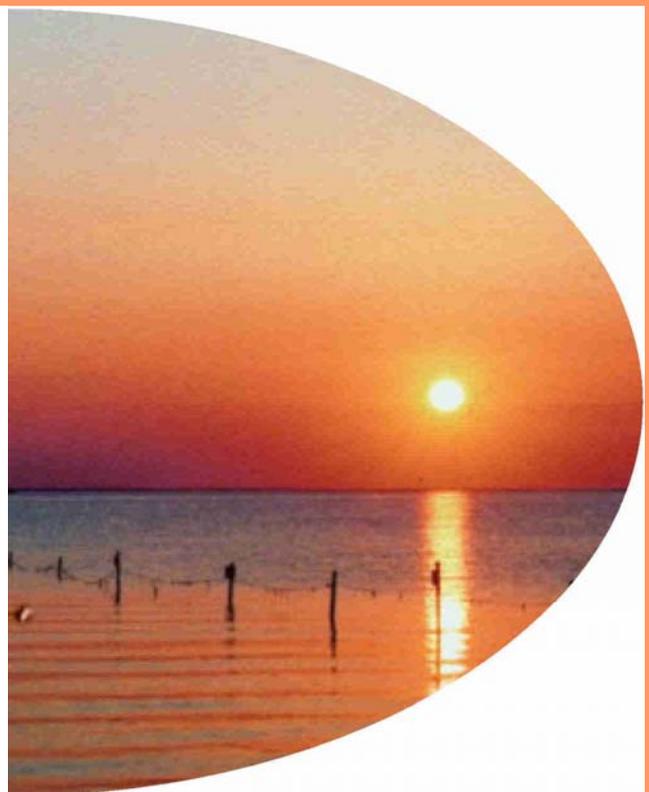
Automotive Businesses

Restaurants

Car Owners

Pet Owners

Pool Owners



FACTSHEET FOR RESTAURANT OWNERS

Polluted Stormwater Runoff

Restaurants contribute to stormwater pollution through improper cleaning practices that allow food particles, oil, grease, trash, and cleaning products to flow into the streets, gutter, or stormwater system. These discharges pollute our creeks, lakes, and bays. Below are some recommended tips for restaurants to follow.

- 1. Use a mop sink.** Indoor cleaning should be done using a mop sink or floor drain that is connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- 2. Never pour wash water** or grease outside or into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- 3. Dispose of all wastewater** containing oil and grease into a grease trap or interceptor. All concentrated waste oil must be collected in a tallow bin and disposed of properly.
- 4. Locate all storm drain inlets.** Mark them to let employees know that waste water is not to be dumped down these drains.
- 5. Train all employees** on pollution prevention techniques. Provide the resources to get the job done and encourage participation through incentive programs such as awards and other forms of recognition.
- 6. Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers** for outside landscaping, and water efficiently to avoid excessive runoff.
- 7. Provide overhead coverage** for all outdoor work areas such as grease bins, trash cans, and chemical storage areas.
- 8. Frequently sweep** outside areas, including parking lots, outdoor eating areas, drive-thru areas, and trash areas. Dispose of debris in the regular trash.