

GRAND CITIES COMMUNITY FOOD PREPARATION PRACTICES

Storm Water Management Activities Fact Sheet No. 12

Goal/Purpose

Short Term:

Reduce discharge of dust, dirt, oils and greases, and floating materials from restaurants, delis, food stands, cafes, or any other food establishments in the storm water system.

Long Term:

Setting up a designated area for cleaning floor mats, trash cans, and other such equipment will simplify protection of storm drains. The wash water from cleaning activities must be disposed of in the sanitary sewer.

Storm Water Management Activities

To comply with the individual Grand Cities Community Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs), specific storm water runoff activities must be implemented at all local municipal facilities as required. This best management practice addresses only storm water protection requirements. Any group that stores, uses, handles, or disposes of food must follow the appropriate local, state, and federal regulations. Contact the North Dakota or Minnesota Department of Health, Sanitation Division, for specific food facility-related questions.

Activity:

1. Never dispose of wash water to storm drain, landscape, pavement, or other storm water conveyances. Wash water should be disposed of to the sanitary sewer. Wash water includes any liquid with cleaner, residual dirt and grime, food residue, or grease; examples include mop water, floor mat wash water, window-cleaning water, and all rinse water.
2. Clean floor mats and trash containers in a designated area with a connection to the sanitary sewer such as mop sink or floor drain.
3. Clean patio furniture, picnic tables, and benches to collect any food residue. If needed, rinse the cleaned surfaces with a bucket and cloth to remove residual. Minimize getting wash water or debris on the ground. It is important to clean up any food waste before rinsing the surface, since food waste will attract rodents and other pests.
4. If outdoor areas are steam-cleaned, prevent the wash water from going down the storm drain by blocking the storm drains or creating temporary berms around the area being cleaned. Then mop up excess water and debris. Excess water should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer, mop sink, or floor drain.
5. Promptly clean up any spill of liquid or solid wastes. Do not hose down an area to clean or handle a spill unless the liquid will be completely contained, cleaned up, and disposed of as appropriate for the waste type. There should be no discharge to storm drains, landscape, or pavement.
6. Schedule regular cleaning of areas, interior and exterior, that collect debris to eliminate particulate and residue buildup. Keeping interior areas clean prevents the tracking of contaminants outside. Provide trash containers, where appropriate, to minimize littering.

- Make sure trash containers have lids if exposed to storm water.
7. Review and minimize outdoor stockpiled materials on a regularly scheduled basis (only non-food-related equipment and supplies are allowed to be stored outside). Often at the back of the storage area there are old and/or unusable supplies or equipment. Usable and temporarily stored material should be stored in a way to minimize contact with storm water. Unused material should be disposed of or recycled as soon as possible. Develop a plan to regularly dispose of unneeded equipment.
 8. Store equipment and supplies under cover whenever possible. Minimizing contact with storm water minimizes contaminants getting into the storm water system. Food-related items should be stored as required by the appropriate rules and regulations of the North Dakota Department of Health, or the Minnesota Department of Health, Sanitation Division.
 9. Cabinets and containers exposed to the weather must be made for exterior use; interior-grade cabinets and containers will rust or deteriorate, contributing contaminants to storm water when exposed to weather.
 10. Provide designated smoking areas with cigarette butt containers. Clean as needed to encourage their use.
 11. Evaluate safer alternative products for any job that usually uses toxic or hazardous products. Investigate alternative floor and window cleaners and general detergents.
 12. Do not use drains without knowing whether they flow to the sanitary sewer, storm system, or a self-contained internal sump. Confirm before using drains to ensure proper disposal. Update facility schematics when any changes to the plumbing or storm water systems are made.
 13. Regularly check grease traps for proper operation. Quickly repair any problem. Schedule regular cleaning of grease traps to prevent a clog or overflow situation. Keep spill response equipment on hand to contain and clean up an overflow event.
 14. Keep grease barrels closed, except when adding or removing grease. Schedule regular pickups for the barrels to ensure there is always plenty of available capacity.
 15. Promptly clean up any spill of grease. A mop and bucket are recommended; do not hose down an area to handle a spill unless the liquid will be completely contained, cleaned up, and disposed of appropriately. There should be no discharge to storm drains, landscape, or pavement.
 16. Put grease in the grease barrels and other waste liquids down the sanitary sewer. Do not put liquids in trash containers. Protect grease barrels from contact with storm water.
 17. All contractors shall provide a copy of their storm water awareness training and procedures for protecting the community storm water conveyance system as required by the Clean Water Act, including the management of wash water, grease, and trash.

If the above-suggested activities require some modification in order to work efficiently and effectively for you and your staff or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, please contact the appropriate Grand Cities storm water representative:

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Paul Clark, UND Facilities Department
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For additional information on this or the local area community responsibilities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, visit the following Grand Cities Community Web sites:

City of Grand Forks:

<http://www.grandforksgov.com/gfgov/EnvironW.nsf/Main+Frameset?OpenFrameset>

City of East Grand Forks:

<http://www.ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us/>

Grand Forks County:

<http://www.co.grand-forks.nd.us/homepage.htm>

University of North Dakota:

<http://www.facilities.und.nodak.edu/stormwater.htm>

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