EPA

FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MRI

Midwest Research Institute

FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION

FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONSORTIUM for POLLUTION PREVENTION EDUCATION

http://www.fc3p2e.com

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's)

Food Service Industry

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Bakeries

Food Producers & Distributors

Grocery Stores

Restaurants

Pollution Prevention
It's Up to Us

The storm drainage systems of Florida lead to our local water bodies, and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. Storm drains were designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets out to Florida waterways. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying stormwater runoff, also referred to as *Pointless Personal Pollution,* straight to these waterways.

When it rains, water mixes with pollutants creating *Pointless Personal Pollution*. The pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Pointless Personal Pollution flows to our waterways through the storm drain system. Each day, polluted runoff enters the water untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash in our water.

Pointless Personal Pollution contaminates the waterways, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent *Pointless Personal Pollution* through Best Management Practices (BMPs). Using these BMPs will ensure cleaner waterways.

Environmental Awareness Saves Our Planet!

This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

Painting

Roadwork & Paving

General Construction & Site Supervision

Heavy Equipment

Concrete & Mortar Application

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

Landscaping Gardening & Pest Control

Solutions for Food Industry Problems

The by-products of food-related businesses can harm Florida's waterways and aquatic life if they enter the storm drain system.

Food businesses can cause harm by putting food waste in leaky dumpsters, not cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills, or by washing outdoor spills into the storm drain system.

Other routine activities such as cleaning oily vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks are sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken. When it rains, motor oil has dripped onto parking lots from business and customer vehicles and is washed into the waterways via the storm drain system.

Oil and grease can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. Also, toxics found in oven and floor cleaners can, in high concentrations, harm aquatic life.

Solutions

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.

♦ Minimize Wastes

Use non-disposable products. Serve food on ceramic dishware rather than paper, plastic or styrofoam and use cloth napkins rather than paper ones. If you must use disposable products, use paper instead of styrofoam.

Buy the least toxic products available.

Look for "non-toxic," "non-petroleum based," "free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume," or "readily biodegradable" on the label.

Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.

Use water-based products.

Look for and use "recycled" and "recyclable" containers.

♦ Keep Work Sites Clean

Cover, repair or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors, Rain can wash oil, grease and substances into storm drains.

Wash greasy equipment such as vents and vehicles in designated wash areas with an appropriate oil/water separator before storing outside. Ensure that designated wash areas are properly connected to the sewer system.

♦ Recycle Wastes

Purchase recycled products. By doing so, you help ensure a use for recyclable materials.

Recycle the following materials:

- Food waste (non-greasy, non-animal food waste can be composted)
- Paper and cardboard
- Glass, aluminum and tin
- Pallets and drums
- Oil and grease

Separate wastes. Keep your recyclable wastes in separate containers according to the type of material. They are easier to recycle if separated.

Recycle oil and grease wastes. Never dump them down storm drains or on the ground. Look in the yellow pages for "Renderers".

♦ Toxic Disposal

Toxic waste includes used cleaners, rags (soaked with solvents, floor cleaners and detergents) and automotive products (such as anti freeze, brake fluid, radiator flush and used batteries).

♦ Employee & Client Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include water quality training in employee orientation and reviews. Promote these Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.
- Place materials inside rigid, durable, watertight and rodent-proof containers with tight fitting covers.
- Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.
- Place plastic sheeting over materials or containers and secure the cover with ties and weighted objects. (Not appropriate for storing liquids.)

Post BMPs where employees and customers can see them. Showing customers you protect the ocean is good public relations.

Explain BMPs to other food businesses through your merchant associations or chambers of commerce.

Contacts

To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department. For more information contact your local Water Management District.

Northwest Florida	**850-539-5999**
St. Johns River	**386-329-4500**
Southwest Florida	**352-796-7211**
South Florida	**561-686-8800**
Suwannee River	**386-362-1001**