5 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):

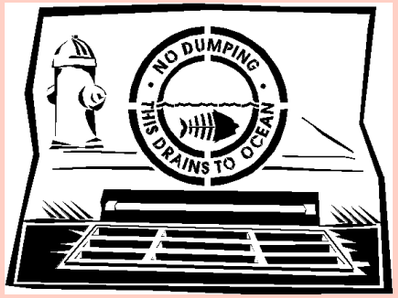
Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.

- Place materials inside rigid, durable, water-tight 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.

Raise both employee and customer awareness by stenciling storm drains near the workplace with the City's stencil:



Spill Response Agencies

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

City of Los Angeles
Police Department, Hazardous Materials Unit
(213) 237-2793 or (213) 485-4011

Los Angeles Fire Department
Health/Hazardous Materials Program
City: (213) 485-8080 County: (213) 890-4045

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

City of Los Angeles
Small Business Hazardous Waste Hotline
(800) 98-TOXIC/ 988-6942

Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division
(213) 847-1444

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Hotline
1 (800) 552-5218

To Report Illegal Dumping

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
1 (800) 303-0003

To Report a Clogged Catch Basin

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Stormwater Management Division
1 (800) 974-9794

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
(818) 458-HELP or (888) CLEAN-LA

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

Auto Maintenance & Car Care

Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application

General Construction & Site Supervision

Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities

Home Repair & Remodeling

Horse Owners & Equine Industry

Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Painting

Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance

Roadwork & Paving

For more information about storm drain protection or additional pamphlets, call:

STORMWATER PROGRAM
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

1 (800) 974-9794
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles

Printed on Recycled Paper 5/96

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Food Service Industry

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Bakeries
Food Producers & Distributors
Grocery Stores
Restaurants

Stormwater Management Division Department of Public Works

Ocean Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us

Los Angeles has two drainage systems–the sewers and the ***storm drains.*** The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent ocean pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to the ocean through the storm drain system–1,500 miles of pipes that take water and debris straight from Los Angeles streets to the ocean. Each day, 100 million gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and over 4,300 *tons* of trash on our beaches annually.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

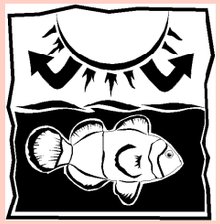
These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner ocean and city.

Food Industry Problems

The by-products of food-related businesses can harm the ocean and sea 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 that has dripped onto parking lots from business and customer vehicles is washed into the ocean 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 the ocean through the storm drain system.

❶ 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.

❷ Keep Work Sites Clean

Cover, repair or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors, and/or drain the pavement beneath them to the sewer. 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.

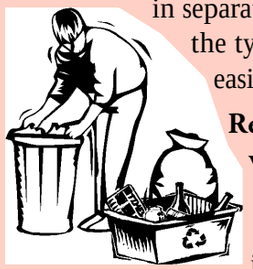
❸ Recycle Wastes

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 containers
- 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" or call one of the disposal numbers listed in this pamphlet.

❹ 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).

For disposal information call: (213) 237-1209.