



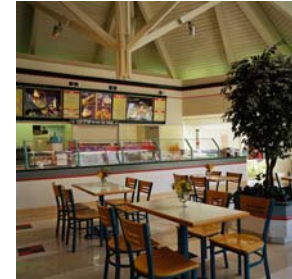
*Conserving Resources Today For  
Redding's Tomorrow.*

## Redding Municipal Utilities Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

### Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMP'S)

## Food Facilities

Brochure 5



“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” — John Muir

When it rains, storm water flows over driveways, lawns, sidewalks, roads and parking lots on its way to the nearest entrance into the storm drain system.

In most cases the storm water system discharges this polluted runoff to the nearest creek, stream or ultimately the river with NO treatment.

This is unlike the water that goes down the toilet or sinks in your home which discharges to the wastewater system for treatment.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, polluted storm water runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Storm water pollution is toxic to fish and wetland wildlife.

It threatens all of us who use and enjoy our most valuable resource – WATER!



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Food facilities-such as restaurants, coffee shops, institutional cafeterias, grocery stores, bakeries and delis can contribute to storm water pollution mainly through improper waste handling and allowing cleanup products to flow to a street, gutter or storm drain. A storm drain violation is a misdemeanor. Violators may also be subject to civil action, be charged for clean up costs, and have their names published in the newspaper. These guidelines will show how you may be inadvertently breaking the law, and simple changes you need to make to stay in compliance.

## Types of Pollution Food Facilities Generate



All substances left in a street, gutter, parking lot, alley, or dumped into a storm drain end up in local creeks, streams and the Sacramento River, with no treatment.



In addition to drawing flies, vermin, and causing odors and public health problems, decaying organic materials use up dissolved oxygen in streams, creeks and the Sacramento River, stressing or killing aquatic life.



Food handling facilities sometimes discharge toxic materials, including cleaning products, disinfectants and pesticides. Even biodegradable soaps contain ingredients which are initially toxic to aquatic life.

If you are not certain whether a drain leads to the storm drain or sanitary sewer, call your city's utility department so they can help you resolve the question. In general, drains inside buildings are connected to the sanitary sewer and outside drains (except for capped sanitary sewer "cleanouts") are connected to the storm drain system. Sanitary sewer cleanouts are usually 4" in diameter, while storm drain inlets are larger—but there are exceptions. You need to know for sure.

## Grease Handling

Oil and grease can plug sanitary sewer lines, causing backups and severe risks to human health and the environment.

Never pour oil, grease, sauces or salad dressings down a storm drain or into a dumpster. Use a grease recycler for fry grease. Inspect and clean grease traps regularly.

## Pavement Cleaning

When cleaning dumpster areas, loading docks and other paved surfaces use a qualified company.

DO NOT use degreasers, bleach or disinfectants in an area where rinse water could flow to a street, gutter, storm drain or creek. Even products labeled "biodegradable" or "environmentally safe" cannot be used.

If flows could enter storm drains, block flows with sand bags, rags, or absorbents.



Dry sweep and dispose of debris as solid waste.



If wet cleaning (including high temperature or high pressure washing) is required, the following three-step process is used:

1. Clean up as much as possible with rags.
2. Use absorbents (e.g., cat litter) to collect residue. Sweep and dispose of materials to the trash if hazardous materials are not involved.
3. Mop, wet-vac (or, if absolutely necessary, wash) and collect water, and dispose of water in janitorial sink, indoor floor drain or sewer drain, **not the storm drain.**