

## Did You Know?

**T**he storm drainage system is separate from the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary sewer collects wastewater from sinks, toilets, dishwashers, and floor drains and directs it to a water treatment plant where the contaminants are removed before the water is released to local waterways.

In contrast, the storm drainage system collects stormwater runoff from parking lots, streets, and lawns and directs it to streams and rivers without treatment. That is why it is so important to employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) on a daily basis to make sure that harmful pollutants, like bacteria, grease, sediment, and chemicals, do not end up in the area's local waterways.

## Restaurant BMPs Protect Local Waters



Storm drainage pipes often discharge pollutants, such as bacteria, grease, sediment, and household chemicals into local waterways.

- What is a Stormwater Best Management Practice?
- Are there Stormwater Best Management Practices for Restaurants?
- What activities around restaurants can harm local streams, creeks, and rivers?
- Doesn't stormwater go to a treatment plant?

See inside...

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# Stormwater Best Management Practices



A Guide for  
Roanoke County  
Restaurants and Eateries

## What are BMPs?

**B**est Management Practices (BMPs) are methods or activities that help prevent stormwater pollution. Restaurants use and produce various types of chemicals and wastes that, if allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system, can have a negative impact on local receiving waters and the region's drinking water supply. Typical wastes from Restaurants and Eateries include:

- Fats, oils, and grease
- Floor and appliance cleaners
- Food waste
- Trash



*Pollutants from restaurants often enter local streams by way of the storm drainage system, which includes inlets, pipes, ditches, and roadway gutters.*

Roanoke County has 13 waterways that are impaired for dissolved oxygen, bacteria, PCBs, sediment, and/or temperature, including the Roanoke River and most of its tributaries.

By following the guidelines in this brochure, food service employees can help prevent stormwater pollution from further impacting local waterways.

## Which BMPs to Use?

- Connect all sink drains and floor drains to the sanitary sewer system to prevent wastes from entering the storm drainage system.
- Dispose of all wash water (and ONLY wash water) into a sink, toilet, or floor drain.
- Clean floor mats, range hoods, exhaust filters, garbage cans, carts, and trays in a utility/mop sink or on a floor area that connects to the sanitary sewer system.
- Maintain and service sewer laterals and grease traps on a routine basis to prevent sewer overflows into the storm drain system.
- Recycle grease and oil and regularly request pick-up service to prevent overfilling the containers.
- Check dumpsters for leaks and repair or replace as needed; and KEEP LIDS CLOSED!
- Regularly pick up trash in the parking lot and outdoor areas. Keep lids closed on all outdoor trash cans and dumpsters.
- Regularly sweep outside areas like parking lots, seating areas, and drive-thru lanes, making sure to dispose of the collected debris in a trash receptacle.



## What Actions to Avoid?



### AVOID:

- Putting ANYTHING except rainwater into a storm drainage inlet.
- Pouring grease, oil, solids, or oily liquids, like sauces, into a storm drainage inlet, down a sink or floor drain, on the ground, or into a dumpster.
- Pressure washing parking lots/sidewalks into the storm drain. [To properly pressure wash outside areas, block the storm drain and vacuum up the wash water or pump it to the sanitary sewer system.]
- Washing or cleaning floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in the parking lot.
- Hosing out your dumpsters. Dumpster "juice" has the potential to contain many pollutants, such as oil, sediment, grease, and bacteria.
- Allowing grease traps to overflow onto the parking lot.
- Allowing employees to toss cigarette butts outside or into the dumpster.
- Leaving lids off of trash cans.