

Restaurants

The following information provides Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are recommended for companies that grow and sell plants and conduct other landscaping activities.

POTENTIAL POLLUTANT SOURCES

The following activities are potential sources of pollutants:

- Dumpster and loading dock area maintenance
- Equipment cleaning
- Grease handling and disposal
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance

Pollutants may include:

- Bacteria
- Organic materials (food wastes)
- Trash
- Oil and grease
- Toxic chemicals (cleaning products, disinfectants)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Using pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most facilities:

- Use alternative, safer, non-toxic, and/or recycled products;
- Reduce storm water flow across the site and redirect flows away from storm drains, gutters, and streets;
- Reduce the use of water and/or use dry methods;
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows; and
- Provide on-going employee training.

GENERAL GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PROCEDURES

- Vacuum or sweep. If water is being used for cleaning floors and adjacent outdoor areas, contain the wash water and dispose of in the sanitary sewer. Do not dispose of in the gutter, storm drain, or street.
- Maintain your facility grounds. Move or cover activities and materials to prevent contact with storm water.
- Label storm drains within your facility boundary.

DUMPSTER AND LOADING DOCK AREAS MAINTENANCE

- Provide trash and recycling receptacles to keep litter from accumulating around loading docks.
- Bag and seal food waste before putting it in the dumpster. Do not place uncontained liquids, or leaking containers or garbage bags into a dumpster.
- Keep dumpster lids closed to keep out rainwater and to prevent trash from spilling out. Consider enclosing the dumpster in a roofed and contained area.
- If the dumpster regularly overflows regularly, get a bigger one or arrange for more frequent collection.
- If dumpster is hosed out for cleaning, direct the wash water to landscaping or the sanitary sewer once the floatable trash and debris are removed.
- Have the dumpster leasing company repair or replace leaky dumpsters and compactors, and have them clean out dirty dumpsters.
- Keep dumpsters or the dumpster enclosure locked to prevent illegal dumping.

EQUIPMENT CLEANING

- Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink, floor drain, or proper outside area connected to the sanitary sewer with an approved grease interceptor. Pour all wash water into the mop sink. Do not wash them in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk, street, gutter or storm drain.

GREASE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

- Recycle grease and oil. Do not contaminate the recyclable oils and grease in the tallow bin with the waste grease from the grease trap or grease interceptor.
- Keep grease that is stored outside contained and under a roof.
- Clean grease trap regularly.
- For disposal of waste grease from the grease trap or grease interceptor, see "Grease Traps" or "Septic Tanks" in the telephone book.

MATERIALS PURCHASING, RECYCLING, AND DISPOSAL

- Dispose of toxic waste properly. Toxic wastes include used cleaners and rags (soaked with solvents, floor cleaners, and detergents).

LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- Never dispose of unused pesticides into a dumpster or the sewer. Leftover pesticides must either be used up or disposed of as hazardous waste. Do not dispose leftover pesticides in the gutters, streets, or storm drains.
- Consider implementing an Integrated Pest Management system to reduce or eliminate the use of toxic pesticides.

- If pesticides are used, do not over-apply or apply when rain is forecasted.
- Do not blow or rake leaves, grass, or garden clippings into the streets, gutters, or storm drains

SPILL CONTROL

- Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily available.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
- Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
- Keep the spill from entering streets, gutters, and storm drains.
- Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility that rinse water could flow to streets, gutters, or storm drains.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train employees on these practices.
- Train staff on the proper maintenance of your facility.
- Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.
- Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.
- Use a training log or similar method to document training.

Sources:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (www.tceq.state.tx.us)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)