

Maintain Garbage Dumpsters

- Keep garbage dumpster lids closed to keep rain and rodents out and to prevent illegal dumping.
- Because dumpsters are not watertight, never dispose of liquids in them.
- Keep litter from accumulating around docks by providing trash receptacles and encouraging employees to use them.
- Inspect for leaks on a regular basis and have bins replaced when necessary. Materials that can leak pollutants should be bagged first.

Outdoor Cleaning

- Use a broom, not water, to clean sidewalks. If this isn't possible, washwater should be re-routed to a landscaped area. It needs to be diverted slowly so it can penetrate the soil.

Note: Restaurants that use or hire outside companies to do their pressure washing are still responsible if cleaning water is improperly disposed of into a storm drain.

- Do NOT allow washwater to run off into the street, gutter or storm drain. Storm drains flow directly to local waterways.
- You can prevent pollution of our creeks and lakes by keeping food, grease, and other pollutants off streets and sidewalks and away from storm drains.

Small efforts by your business can produce large and lasting impacts. With a little common sense and the implementation of good housekeeping measures, you can positively influence the quality of our local water resource supply.

Only Rain in the Drain

In Genesee County, all storm drains flow directly to creeks or other waterways with no treatment!



Report Stormwater Pollution Violations

If spills and overflows originating from a cleanout, drain, interceptor, or other device discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer system:

1. Immediately stop the flow from discharging further.
2. Report spills to the local municipality and county.
3. Report spills, releases, or other environmental **emergencies** to the state.
4. Perform mandatory clean-up of the affected areas. If the business cannot procure a clean-up, the municipality/state will mitigate the overflow, perform the clean-up, and bill the property owner. Usually this will be an insurance claim.

For More Information and to Report Potential Problems

State EGLE - Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) Information Hotline:
800.292.4706 - Staffed to take calls 24/7



Report spills, releases, or other environmental emergencies involving air, land, water, groundwater, wetlands, and public drinking water.

Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Surface Water Management

810.732.1590 | www.gdcswm.com

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) - Report spills that occur outside.



Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Water & Waste Services

810.732.7870 | www.gdcwws.com

Sanitary Pre-treatment Program (IPP) - Controlling fats, oils, and grease discharges from food service establishments. Report sewer back-ups and problems with grease traps or grease interceptors.



Genesee County Health Department
Environmental Health

810.257.3612 | info@gchd.us

www.gchd.us/services/environmental-health
Food Service Program



Many businesses do not realize their practices can impact our local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes with pollution. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution.

Restaurants and other food handling facilities use and produce various types of chemicals and wastes that, if allowed to enter the storm drainage system, can have a negative impact on local receiving waters.

Let's make one thing
Perfectly Clear.
our water
Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium

**Stormwater
Pollution
Prevention
Program**





Is your restaurant sending WASTE to our lakes and rivers?

Fats, oil, grease, floor solvents, cleaning agents, cigarette butts, food waste, paper napkins and styrofoam all contribute to the pollution of our creeks and waterways. By implementing proper cleaning and waste management practices the introduction of these pollutants to our waterways can be avoided.

Plumbing fixtures *inside* buildings such as sinks, floor drains, and toilets discharge to sanitary sewers. Flow from sanitary sewers then travels to treatment plants. *Outside* drains generally discharge to storm sewers which are not connected to a treatment plant. Instead, flow from storm sewers, also known as the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), drains to our local streams, rivers, and lakes.

Food-related businesses can contribute to MS4 pollution. For instance, putting food waste in leaky dumpsters, not cleaning outdoor spills properly, and dumping wash water into the alleyway, street, or gutter allows contaminated runoff to enter storm drains. To keep waterways clean, it is important that all water used in restaurant cleaning be directed only to drains leading to the sanitary sewer or septic system.

Illicit Discharges

An illicit discharge is any pollutant entering the MS4, including outdoor spills of oils/grease, cleaning agents, or trash leachate. **The property owner is responsible for cleanup costs.** Prevention and training is the most cost-effective solution.

Best Management Practices for Restaurants and Food Handling Facilities

Maintenance practices to avoid or minimize pollutants discharged to waterways are described below. By following them you can help protect water quality in our streams and comply with local, state, and federal regulations.

Safely Dispose of Grease and Oil

- ◆ Dispose of grease into appropriate containers. It is illegal to discharge anything but clean stormwater runoff into the MS4s.
- ◆ Collect bulk grease in containers and contact a firm to haul it away.
- ◆ Get the receiving station manifests from grease haulers to make sure that they dispose of grease at an approved facility to avoid causing problems.
- ◆ Grease containers lids must be kept closed except when adding grease.
- ◆ Immediately clean up any grease spills including drippings on top of the containers.

Spill Prevention and Cleanup

- ◆ Instead of washing outdoor spills, use dry methods such as cat litter to soak up liquids.
- ◆ Report spills to the local municipality and county. If a spill threatens public health, call 911.

Clean Mats and Equipment

- ◆ Clean floor mats, garbage cans, and other similarly sized equipment at a mop sink or interior floor drain connected to a sanitary sewer.

Use Mop Buckets and Sinks

- ◆ Never empty a mop bucket outside or where it can drain into a storm drain.
- ◆ Always dump mop water into a janitorial or mop sink—not where food prep is done.
- ◆ Keep the mop sink accessible. Don't use it to store materials or equipment.