

## 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 it is released to waterways.

The storm drainage system, however, 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 implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on a daily basis to make sure that harmful pollutants, like bacteria, and chemicals do not end up in the region's local waterways.

## Restaurant BMPs Protect Local Waters



*Storm drainage pipes often discharge pollutants, such as bacteria, fertilizers, and everyday 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. . .

For more information, contact:

Public Works Department  
Stormwater Management Division  
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TOWN OF VINTON  
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# Stormwater Best Management Practices for Restaurants



## A Guide for Town of Vinton Restaurants and Eateries

## What are BMPs?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution. Restaurants 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 and the region's drinking water supply. Typical wastes from Restaurants include:

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



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

Town of Vinton has 4 waterways that are impaired for bacteria, sediment, PCB's, dissolved oxygen, 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.

## What 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 floor area which connects to the sanitary sewer.
- 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.
- 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 trashcans.
- 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?



- Putting **ANYTHING** except rainwater into a storm drain inlet.
- Pouring grease, oil, solids, or oily liquids, like sauces, into a storm drain inlet, down a sink, floor drain, on the ground, or into a dumpster.
- Pressure washing parking lots and 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 for many pollutants including, oil, grease, sediment and bacteria.
- Allowing grease traps to overflow onto the parking lot.
- Allowing employees to toss cigarette butts outside or into the dumpster.