

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STORMWATER

Tips for Supermarkets and Grocery Stores

Supermarket and grocery store owners and operators are responsible for any activities on their property that lead to non-stormwater discharges to the street, gutter or stormdrain. The Clean Water Program's friendly and knowledgeable staff support business owners and managers like you in preventing water pollution and complying with stormwater regulations. The fact that you're reading this fact sheet means you have already decided to take steps to do the right thing when maintaining your property. Thank you for keeping our water safe and healthy.

General Best Management Practices

- Know possible pollution sources from your store, such as:
 - ✓ Spills, leaks, or overflowing trash in dumpster areas.
 - ✓ Liquid wastes and hydraulic fluid leaks from trash compactors.
 - ✓ Leaking oil and loose trash in loading dock.
 - ✓ Outdoor hose water (contains chlorine).
 - ✓ Food preparation activities that generate grease, trash, wastewater, and other waste products.
- Inspect dumpster areas and loading areas regularly to make sure there are no leaks, spills, loose trash, or other source of stormwater pollution outdoors.
- Keep property clean. Never allow hose water, wastewater, or other wastes to enter streets or storm drains.
- Have a spill prevention and control plan so that nothing enters storm drains and pollutes our local waterways.

Training Staff

- Train all staff on Best Management Practices. Any material (liquid or solid) that is hosed off into streets or storm drains, or that could be carried to streets or storm drains by rainwater, is an illegal discharge.
- Post signs to notify staff to keep all dumpster and waste container lids closed, and outdoor areas clean.
- Post signs to notify staff of spill response plans and location of spill control equipment.
- Be prepared for spills. Keep a labelled kit on site for cleaning spills with dry methods: absorbents, brooms, shop vacuum.



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Keep wash waters, waste waters, trash, and debris OUT of the storm drains. Keep oils, grease, and hazardous chemicals OUT of storm drains and sanitary sewers.



Draining washwater from cleaning activities into the street or storm drains damages sensitive habitats and can kill wildlife. Water flowing into storm drains travels directly to local creeks and then to **San Francisco Bay**. It does not go to a wastewater treatment plant.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.



Cleaning Carts, Mats, and Other Equipment

- Clean equipment in a designated wash area that drains to the sanitary sewer – away from streets, gutters, and storm drains.
- If the designated cleaning area is outdoors, then collect and pump the washwater to the sanitary sewer.
- Temporary cleaning areas must contain all washwaters.
- If you have cooking operations, be sure to properly service roof exhaust equipment. All washwater must be contained, vacuumed up, and disposed of to the sanitary sewer.
- You are responsible for any activities on your property, including the activities of contractors you hire, that lead to non-stormwater discharges to the street, gutter or storm drain, including washwater.
- Know how your contractor is cleaning equipment. Share this fact sheet with your contractors as needed.

Maintaining Dumpsters, Parking and Outdoor Areas

- Dumpsters, recycling bins, and other containers must always be closed. Ensure they are not leaking or over-filled.
- Always cover and contain outdoor materials when not in-use.
- Dispose of food wastes, recycling, grease, and trash in the appropriate containers.
- Keep dumpsters and compactors free of liquid waste. Drain liquids into the sanitary sewer or into an appropriate container. Strain liquid from solid food wastes with a strainer. Place only empty containers into compactors.
- Keep parking areas litter-free.

Cleaning and Emergency Spill Control

- For greasy drips or spills, absorbents like rags or cat litter may be used, swept up, and disposed of in a sealed container.
- If wet cleaning methods are used, then protect storm drains, use minimal water, and collect all washwater for proper disposal.
- Collect washwater and dispose of it at an approved location – never into the street, parking lot, or storm drain.
- Consider hiring a Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association Recognized Mobile Cleaner. To learn more visit www.basmaa.org/training.

KEY DEFINITIONS

The **Storm Drain System** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.



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Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda.....	(510) 747-7930
Albany	(510) 528-5770
Berkeley.....	(510) 981-6400
Dublin	(925) 833-6630
Emeryville	(510) 596-3728
Fremont	(510) 494-4570
Hayward	(510) 881-7900
Livermore	(925) 960-8100
Newark	(510) 578-4286
Oakland	(510) 238-6600
Piedmont.....	(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton	(925) 931-5500
San Leandro.....	(510) 577-3401
Unincorp. Alameda County.....	(510) 567-6700
Union City.....	(510) 675-5308
Clean Water Program.....	(510) 670-6548

For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

Castro Valley

Castro Valley Sanitary District .. (510) 537-0757

City of Dublin

Dublin-San Ramon Services District..... (925) 828-0515

Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City

Union Sanitary District

City of Hayward

City of Hayward

City of Livermore

City of Livermore

City of Pleasanton

City of Pleasanton

Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward

Oro Loma Sanitary District

City of San Leandro

City of San Leandro.....