While we know that water pollution can originate from sources such as an industry or sewage, much has been done to clean up these "point sources" of pollution.

What many people don't realize, is that "nonpoint source" pollution—which originates from many diffuse sources all over our watershed—is the main cause of water pollution.

Water picks up sediments and contaminants as it runs off streets and landscape. In Arcata, "stormwater pollution"—flows to storm drains which empty directly into our creeks, sloughs, Humboldt Bay and the ocean. Storm drains are separate from our sewer system, and flow to our creeks and waterways UNTREATED! Common pollutants include trash, fuel, and other vehicle fluids. Food businesses can cause harm by putting food waste in leaky dumpsters, not properly cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills, washing spills and/or cleaning oily vents and mats in streets or alleys which lead to storm drains.

To protect our creeks and waterways only rain should go down storm drains.

We all need to do our part. Please don't let runoff get polluted in the first place.

Employee & Customer Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include water quality training in employee orientation and reviews. Promote these Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.
- Place materials inside rigid, durable, water- tight and rodent-proof containers with tight fitting covers.
- Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.

Place plastic sheeting over materials or containers and secure the cover with ties and weighted objects. (Not appropriate for storing liquids).

Post BMPs Where Employees and Customers Can See Them

Showing customers you protect area creeks and Humboldt Bay is good public relations.



For questions call: City of Arcata Environmental Services (707) 822-8184

Humboldt Waste Management Authority (707) 441-2005

CalRecycle 1-800-RECYCLE

Stormwater Coalition

North Coast Stormwater Coalition Region-Wide Hotline

1-877-NCSC-001 1-877-627-2001 www.HumboldtStormwater.org

Department of Toxic Substances Control Hotline

(800) 728-6942



City of Arcata Food and Restaurant Business Guidelines

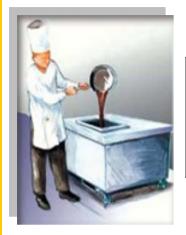


For Water Quality Protection



Environmental Services
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-8184
eservices@cityofarcata.org
www.cityofarcata.org

Recycle Grease And Oil.



Don't pour it into sinks, floor drains, or onto a parking lot or street.

Wash into a Mop Sink, Floor Drain or Proper Outside Area.



Don't wash floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.

Pour Wash Water into a Janitorial or Mop Sink.



Don't pour it out onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.

Use Dry Methods for Spill Cleanup.



Use sweeping, cat litter, absorbent pads, etc. Don't hose down spills.

Keep Dumpster Area Clean and Lids Closed.



Sweep up waste material. Don't fill it with liquid waste or hose it out.

Minimize Wastes

- Use non-disposable products. Serve food on ceramic dishware rather than paper, plastic or Styrofoam. Use cloth napkins rather than paper ones. If you must use disposable products, use paper instead of Styrofoam.
- Buy the least toxic products available.
- Look for "nontoxic," "non-petroleum based," "free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume," or "readily biodegradable" on the label.
- Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.
- Use water-based products.
- Look for & use "recycled" and reusable containers.