

Stormwater & Restaurants

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

Many people don’t realize, that “nonpoint source” pollution, which originates from many diffuse sources all over our watershed is the main cause of water pollution in our coastal waters.

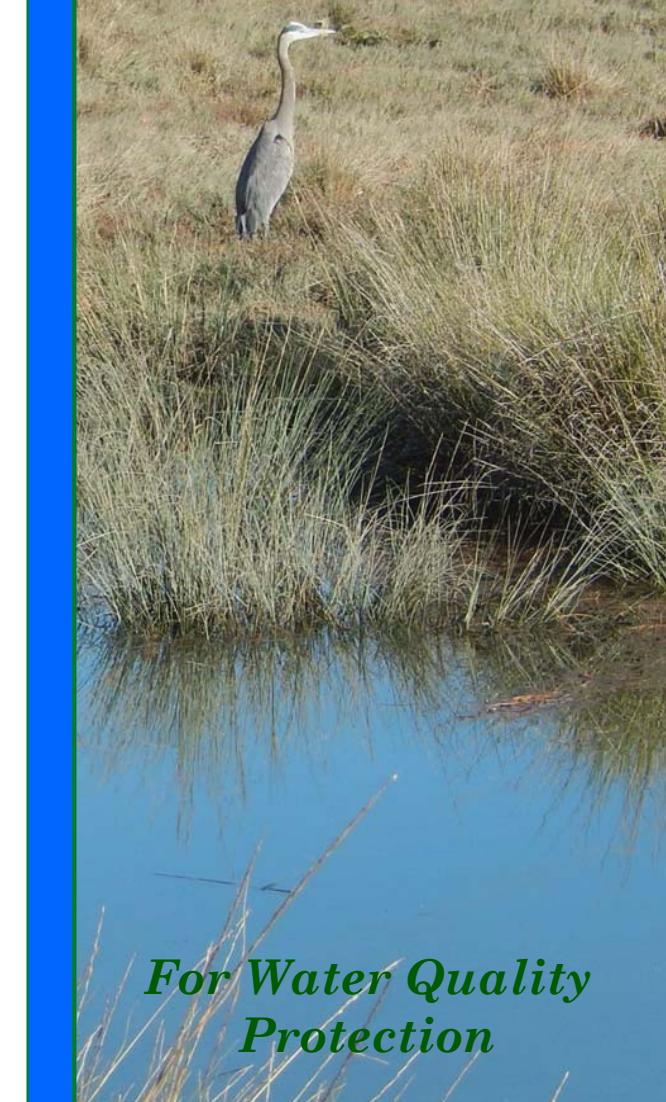
Water picks up contaminants as it runs off streets & landscape. In Arcata, “stormwater pollution” flows to storm drains which empty directly into our creeks, sloughs, Humboldt Bay & the ocean. Storm drains are separate from our sewer system, & discharge **UNTREATED** to our waterways! Pollutants include trash, vehicle fluids, and pollutants from restaurants including: fats, oils, and greases from cleaning oily vents & mats in allies and streets.

What You Can Do:

To protect our creeks & waterways only rain should go down storm drains. We all need to do our part:

- Clean up outdoor chemical and food waste spills properly.
- Follow the Best Management Practices found inside this brochure.
- Use non-disposable products. Serve food on ceramic dishware rather than paper or plastic. Use cloth napkins rather than paper ones.
- 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 & formaldehyde.
- Use water-based products.
- Look for & use "recycled" & reusable containers.

Stormwater Best Management Practices for Restaurants



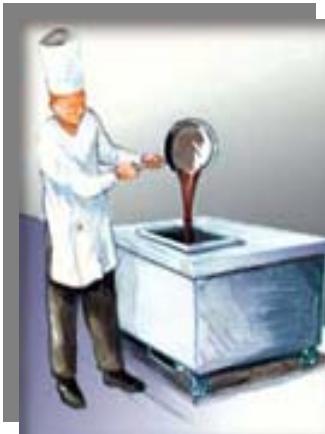
For Water Quality Protection



Environmental Services Department

Restaurant Best Management Practices for Stormwater Protection

Recycle Grease & Oil



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

Wash into a Mop Sink or Floor Drain



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

Keep Dumpster Area Clean & Lids Closed



Keep outside areas clean and trash picked-up.

Pour Wash Water into a Janitorial or Mop Sink



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

Use Dry Methods for Spill Cleanup



Don't hose down spills, use an absorbent material, like cat litter, and then sweep it up.



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