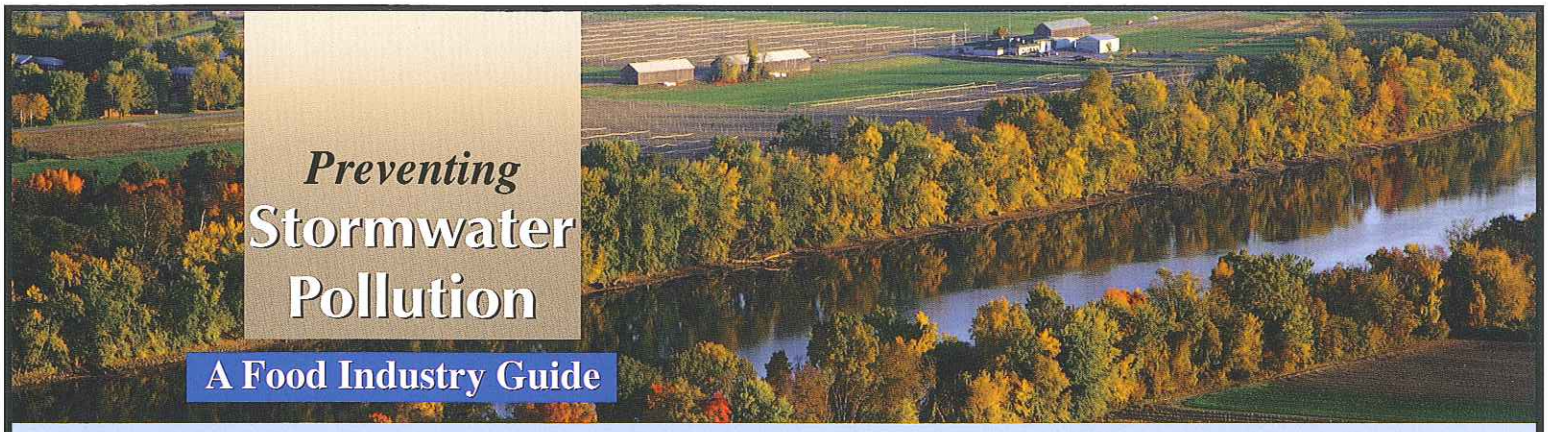


Preventing Stormwater Pollution

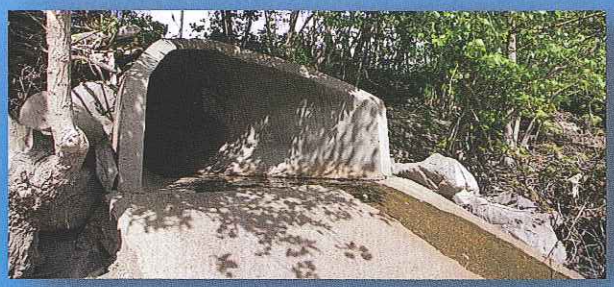
A Food Industry Guide

There is a big difference between a sanitary sewer and a storm drain.

The ***sewer system*** takes all wastewater from toilets, sinks and showers to a wastewater treatment facility, where the water is treated before it is discharged to a water body.

Storm Drain / Catch Basin

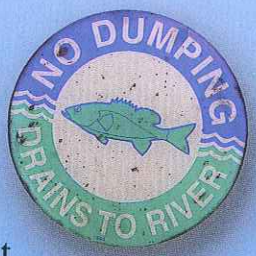
The ***storm drain system***, on the other hand, collects rainwater from city streets and urban areas to prevent flooding. Unfortunately, chemicals, oil, trash and other debris that have been spilled accidentally or intentionally can also enter the storm drain system. The water from storm drains typically flows untreated to a nearby stream, river or other water body, causing water pollution.



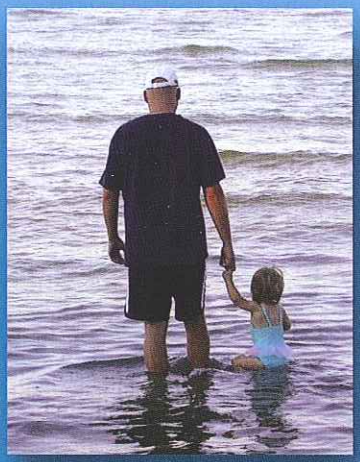
Storm Drain Outfall

Stormwater Pollution causes erosion, habitat degradation, and poor water quality, impacting commercial and recreational fishing, swimming, and boating.

Dumping waste onto the street is a large contributor of water pollution in the country and it is against the law.



Your business can help protect the Connecticut River and other local water resources by adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) – simple, inexpensive and environmentally friendly ways to prevent water pollution.



In most communities, dumping waste into the storm drain is punishable by fines.

Sources of Pollution

- Dumpster and loading dock area maintenance
- Equipment cleaning
- Grease handling and disposal
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance

Pollutants Include

- Bacteria
- Organic materials (food wastes)
- Trash
- Oil and grease
- Toxic chemicals (cleaning products, disinfectants)

Only Rain Down the Drain

- Make sure all pipes inside the business are connected to the sewer system, not the storm drain system.
- Label all drains within the facility boundary as sewer or storm drain, and explain to employees the difference between the sewer and storm drain system.
- Use dry methods for spill cleanups.
- Pour rinse water into drains connected to the sewer, not the storm drain system.
- Never clean equipment outside where water may flow to an unprotected storm drain.
- If floor mats are too big to clean indoors, contract with a mat cleaning service or clean in an area that drains to the sewer.
- For outside eating areas:

  Sweep or vacuum daily.

  Cover storm drain before wet cleaning, such as pressure washing.

  Collect washwater and dispose of in a sewer, not a storm drain.
- Keep dumpster areas clean and prevent liquid leaking.
- Don't hose out dumpsters. Call your solid waste hauler when your dumpster is leaking or in need of cleaning or repair.

Manage Grease Waste

- Install a grease trap or interceptor.
- Clean grease trap regularly.
- Make sure grease bins are tightly closed and on level ground.
- Recycle grease and oil. Do not contaminate the recyclable oils and grease in the tallow bin with the waste grease from the grease trap or grease interceptor.
- Keep grease that is stored outside contained under a roof.
- Contract with a grease hauler to regularly service and empty your grease waste.

Prevent Toxic Waste Pollution

- Use non-toxic cleaners. Purchase commercially available alternatives or make your own cleaning solutions. www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm.
- Dispose of detergents and toxic waste properly, including used cleaners and rags (soaked with solvents or conventional floor cleaners).

Clean Up Spills

- Stockpile spill cleanup materials where they will be readily available.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
- Clean leaks, drips and spills with as little water as possible Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Remove the absorbent materials and dispose of properly.
- Keep the spill from entering streets, gutters and storm drains.
- Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility the rinse water could flow to streets, gutters, or storm drains.

Train Employees

- Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.
- Train all new employees and conduct and annual refresher training.
- Use a training log to document training.

For More Information CheckOut...

What's Cookin? Eating and Drinking Establishments: Stormwater Best Management Practices

www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/food_guide-final.pdf

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution log onto www.ThinkBlueMA.org

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