



# Restaurant and Food Industry Gray Water Best Management Practices

These restaurant and food industry gray water best management practices (BMPs) apply to all bakeries, food distributors, grocery stores and restaurants within the City of Gig Harbor.

Restaurants and food establishments may not be aware of activities that could negatively impact our surrounding aquatic environment. The by-products of food-related businesses in Gig Harbor can harm our local rivers, Puget Sound and the fish within them if they enter the storm drain system.

Food businesses can cause harm by putting food waste in leaky dumpsters, not cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills, or by washing outdoor spills into the storm drain system. Other routine activities such as cleaning oily vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks are also sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken. For example, when it rains, motor oil that has dripped onto parking lots from daily business and customer vehicles is washed into our surrounding rivers via the storm drain system.

Oil and grease that makes its way into the rivers can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. Additionally, toxins found in oven and floor cleaners can also, in high concentrations, harm aquatic life.



### Recycle Grease and Oil

Do not pour grease and oil into sinks, floor drains, or onto a parking lot or street. Pouring grease, oil and food scraps down the sink increases the likelihood of clogging pipes and backing up your sewer. For information on installing a grease interceptor in your business please contact the City's Building Department at 253-851-8136.

### Pour Wash Water into a Janitorial or Mop Sink

Do not pour wash water out onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street. These areas drain to the City's storm drainage system, local waterways and Puget Sound.



### Use Dry Methods for Spill Cleanup

Do not hose down spills. Instead, use dry methods for spill clean up such as sweeping or covering the spill with cat litter to absorb the spill and then sweep up and dispose of properly.

### Keep Dumpster Areas Clean and Lid Closed

Do not fill dumpsters with liquid waste or hose them out. Dumpster areas without secondary containment can drain to the City's storm drainage system, local waterways and Puget Sound.



### Clean Floor Mats, Filters and Garbage Cans in a Mop Sink, or Floor Drain

Do not wash floor mats, filters, grease racks, ventilation hoods and garbage cans in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street. Instead, wash these items in a mop sink or floor drain to keep contaminated gray water from reaching our waterways.

## Employee & Client Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include water quality training in employee orientation and reviews. The following are Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be included and explained in employee training:

- 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.

## Post BMPs Where Employees and Customers Can See Them

Showing customers you protect our surrounding waters is good public relations.

For more information call (253) 853-2646, City of Gig Harbor, 3510 Grandview St., Gig Harbor WA 98335