

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING COLORADO'S CLEAN WATER STARTS IN THE KITCHEN. YOURS.

Maintaining clean food service facilities is more important now than ever. Properly managing liquid waste is integral to not only safer business practices, but also keeps our waterways clean and clear— because it is all connected.

We've all seen water running in the streets and gutters after a rain or snow storm. Wonder where it goes? Straight into our local waterways, including streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes like Cherry Creek Reservoir. Why does it matter?

Because along the way, stormwater runoff picks up pollutants as it flows over the ground or pavement. Everything on the ground could potentially blow or flow into our waterways – from litter like cigarette butts, straws, wrappers and trash from over-filled or leaking dumpsters, to spills from from outdoor grease bins and improperly-disposed-of cleaning products. The result?

Pollution in our waterways. Not only is it unsightly, but this pollution also degrades our water quality, which endangers our natural ecosystems and our safe drinking water supply.

You can help save our waterways. Incorporating these safe kitchen and food service practices can help reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. And that's an idea we can all sink our teeth into.

Remember: Dumping or allowing washwater into the storm drains is a violation of local water quality regulations and could be subject to penalties. Please report illegal dumping of wastes into drains.

SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN:

- ✓ Don't throw wastewater down storm drains. Water used for mopping, cleaning and washing should be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system
- ✓ Cover outdoor grease and oil storage containers. Open containers can collect rainwater and over flow, sending grease right to the waterway. Contact your service provider to perform maintenance
- ✓ Keep grease dumpsters and storage containers away from storm drains
- ✓ The best way to clean the patio and sidewalk is to use "dry" cleanup methods such as sweeping, using absorbents and spot scrubbing stains
- ✓ Liquids may leak when put directly into a dumpster. Dispose of them properly
- ✓ Wash mats, kitchen hoods, filters and garbage cans indoors. Do not sweep or wash materials out the back door
- ✓ Make sure employees and companies you hire (trash haulers, grease recyclers and pressure washers) perform with best management practices to prevent loose litter and protect clean water

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO KEEP YOUR FOOD SERVICE FACILITY CLEAN... AND PROTECT COLORADO RIVERS AND STREAMS

Not only is it illegal for spills and waste from food service facilities to flow into storm drains, it does significant damage to our waterways. Here are simple, practical ways that you can prevent pollution from entering Colorado streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes like Cherry Creek Reservoir.

- WASH** mats, kitchen hoods, filters and garbage cans indoors
- DON'T** sweep or wash materials out the back door
- KEEP** a spill kit handy to clean up messes

TRAIN employees and inform companies you hire to prevent spills and dangerous dumping

LOCATE the nearest storm drain and inform others what its purpose is

POST this brochure on a visible bulletin board as a daily reminder

ENSURE all contractors, including landscapers, pressure washers, hood cleaners, carpet cleaners, and painters are aware of their responsibility to protect stormwater

SANITARY DRAINS LEAD TO TREATMENT PLANTS

INFORM employees, contractors, tenants, and vendors including trash and grease recyclers about regulations and your intention and expectations to protect clean water

- KEEP** grease bin covered and clean
- SCRAPE** grease spills
- CHECK** grease traps often
- DISPOSE** of grease and oil properly by using a rendering company

- COVER** the dumpster and recycling area
- DON'T** allow bins to overflow
- INSPECT** them for leaks or cracks
- CALL** your service provider if your dumpsters are missing lids or leak

STORM DRAINS FLOW DIRECTLY TO WATERWAYS

SWEEP patios and outdoor areas, then wash, disposing of wastewater into floor drains or mop sinks that are designed to handle the gunk

DISPOSE wastewater, including chlorinated water, fire suppression water, HVAC or boiler cleaning water, street sweeping water and storm drain cleaning water to a sanitary sewer, or use best management practices

Rain and snowmelt washes *whatever* is on the street, or in the gutters, directly into our storm drains that connect to rivers and lakes— without treatment.

water and ultimately a decline in our drinking water quality. Sustaining our waterways is as easy as letting the storm drains handle just the storms and properly disposing of everything else.

For restaurants, oil and grease, trash or other chemicals used in your day-to-day operations can end up downstream if not properly disposed of.

For more information, please visit our website at www.splashco.org.

This upsets the delicate ecosystem of our waterways and damages aquatic life— leading directly to unfit conditions for recreational activities, bad smelling



SPLASH
STORMWATER PERMITTEES FOR LOCAL AWARENESS OF STREAM HEALTH
WWW.SPLASHCO.ORG