

# FOOD INDUSTRY

## Stormwater Best Management Practices



### ONLY RAIN BELONGS DOWN THE DRAIN!

Protect Our  
Waterways and Help  
Prevent Food Industry  
Waste From Entering  
Storm Drains



The storm drainage systems in Lowell are designed to prevent flooding by collecting excess stormwater during storms or rain events. This stormwater flows over surfaces, picks up pollutants and is eventually discharged, into the lakes, streams, and rivers. Unfortunately, there is no process in the storm drain system to effectively filter out these contaminants and pollutants before they reach our downstream waters.

The by-products of the food industry can harm our waterways and wildlife if they enter the storm drain system. This is typically caused by disposing of food waste in faulty dumpsters, not properly cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills, or by improper disposal of waste and liquids which enter into the storm drain system. For this reason, it is important to understand the ways in which the food industry can help aid in keeping our waterways clean through the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution.

The quality of our waters depends on your actions. We can work together to protect our local water quality and comply with local, regional, and state regulations!

Report Spills or Stormwater Pollution to the city's  
Stormwater Administrator at 704-824-3518

For more information, visit:  
<http://lowellnc.com/248/Stormwater-Management>



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### KEEP WORKSITES CLEAN

- Clean equipment, floor mats, kitchen accessories, and garbage cans in designated indoor area that drains to the sanitary sewer.
- Always dispose of wash water into a designated indoor area that drains.
- Do NOT wash outside where flow could go to a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.



### PREVENT OIL AND GREASE SPILLS

- Never pour oil and grease into storm drains, dumpsters, or onto parking lots.
- Collect oil and grease in covered, leak free containers.
- Regularly inspect and clean out grease traps.
- Properly dispose of waste grease with a professional service company.



### EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Post BMPs where employees and customers can see them.
- Train your employees to implement stormwater BMPs and spill cleanup procedures.
- Ensure employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and these best management practices.
- Document training of employees.



### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- All facility liquid waste must be discharged to a sanitary sewer or septic system.
- Materials should be stored indoors or covered to prevent substances from entering storm drains.
- Keep liquid waste out of dumpsters and trashcans. Cover dumpsters to keep stormwater out and trash in.
- Sweep up debris around the dumpsters.



### DEVELOP PREVENTATIVE ACTION PLANS

- Prepare a spill cleanup plan for different types of spills.
- Purchase absorbent materials and other spill response equipment in well-marked, accessible areas.
- Clean up spills immediately and dispose of non-hazardous solid waste in the garbage for municipal pick-up.
- Keep spills from entering storm drains.



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