A-8: Storage of Solid Waste and Food Wastes (Including Cooking Grease)

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to garbage dumpsters, trash compactors and outdoor waste containers (e.g., cooking oil/grease receptacles).

Required BMPs

- Store wastes in leak-proof containers with solid lids (e.g., dumpsters and trash compactors). No rainwater should be able to enter the container and no fluids should be leaking out.
- Have spill cleanup materials nearby.
- Keep all waste receptacles (e.g., dumpsters, garbage cans, used cooking oil/grease containers) closed except when adding waste.
- Leaking outdoor waste containers must be repaired or replaced. Contact your waste hauler for replacements if the container is leased.
- Trash compactor wastewater must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, septic system or collected and hauled off-site for proper disposal. It must not be discharged to ground, stormwater drainage systems, surface waters or groundwater.
- Trash compactor drain lines should be connected to the sanitary sewer or septic system. If a connection is not possible, collect the wastewater in a dead-end sump or similar device. The wastewater containment must be easily inspected, maintained, and pumped out for proper disposal.

Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) Management BMPs

- Used cooking oil/grease containers shall be labeled with their contents and have a secured lid.
- While oil/grease containers may not be required to have secondary containment, they should be located and/or secured such that they can't be tipped over. If there is an accumulation of oil/grease on the exterior of the container, secondary containment will be required.
- Clean up any spills immediately using absorbent material or scraping it up. Grease cannot be left on the ground.
- Use a lid or cover when transporting cooking oil/grease containers from kitchens to outside grease containers to prevent contents from spilling.
- Ensure that drip pans or absorbent materials are used whenever grease containers are emptied by vacuum trucks or other means.

- Dispose of collected cooking oil/grease as garbage if it is not being recycled. Do not dispose of fats, oils, or grease (FOG) into the sanitary sewer, septic system, or stormwater drainage system.

Required Routine Maintenance

- Keep the area around the grease container clean and free of debris.
- Check storage containers frequently for leaks and to ensure that lids are secure.
- Regularly check for loose debris in the waste container storage area and sweep if the area is paved. After sweeping, the waste storage area may be hosed down—without the use of soaps, detergents, or other chemicals—if there are no accumulations of oil and grease present and the rinse water is not discharged to a stormwater drainage system or surface water. The rinse water can infiltrate to ground or be discharged to a sanitary sewer.
- Do not hose down or apply soaps, detergents, or other chemicals to waste storage areas with accumulated oil and grease. Oily wastewater can clog stormwater drainage systems and sanitary sewer lines. Contact a service provider to remove and properly dispose of oil and grease accumulations.
- If cleaning or rinsing waste containers, dispose of all wastewater into the sanitary sewer. If sanitary sewer is not available, then store the wastewater in a holding tank, dead-end sump, or truck it off-site to an approved disposal location.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-31: Parking Lots, Driveways and Outside Storage Areas
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Disposal
    - Drainage Maintenance Contractors

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.