A-12: Cleaning or Washing of Food Service Areas and Equipment

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 stationary and mobile food service operations.

For information on washing the exterior of buildings and surfaces, refer to BMP activity sheets A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces.

For information on the use of pressure washers, steam cleaners or similar activities, refer to BMP activity sheet A-58: Pressure Washing, Steam Cleaning, and Similar Activities.

Required BMPs

- The cleaning of food service equipment—such as cooking equipment, filter screens, and floor mats—must be done indoors.
- All wash and rinse water (including mop water) must be discharged to the sanitary sewer or the septic system. It may not be discharged outdoors or into the stormwater drainage system.
- Floor mop water must not be poured outside. Instead pour mop water into a mop sink, utility sink or toilet.
- Wash and rinse water containing fats, oils, or grease (FOG) may require pretreatment to remove FOG prior to disposal to the sanitary sewer or septic system. Check with your sewer authority or Public Health-Seattle and King County.
- Do not dispose of wash or rinse waster containing floor stripping or disinfectant chemicals into the septic system as they can seriously inhibit wastewater treatment and cause the system to fail. The wash or rinse water should be collected and hauled offsite for proper disposal (e.g., taken to a wastewater treatment facility).
- The use of “environmentally friendly”, "nontoxic" or “biodegradable” soaps and detergents does NOT make it acceptable to discharge to any stormwater drain system or surface waters. All soaps and detergents are harmful to aquatic organisms.
-

Additional Information

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-13: Vehicle Washing and Steam Cleaning
    - A-15: Washing of Buildings, Rooftops, and Other Large Surfaces

  - A-18: Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance
  - A-58: Pressure Washing, Steam Cleaning, and Similar Activities
- Potential pollutants can include: nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, pH, and sediment.
- Contact Public Health-Seattle and King County at 206-263-9566 or 206-477-8050
- Contact the local sewer authority and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division Industrial Waste Section at 206-477-5371 for more information on disposal to the sanitary sewer system.
- Interagency Resource for Achieving Cooperation's *A Guide to Restaurant Grease Management* https://apps.lhwmp.org/IRAC/eDoc.ashx?DocID=Xb9va1HRGBg%3d

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