

Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before discharging it into creeks, streams, or rivers. The storm drainage system includes all storm drains, roadside gutter pans and ditches, drainage channels and swales, creeks and streams.

Sanitary Sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, mop sinks, and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment facility. The treatment facility removes many harmful pollutants from wastewater before discharging it to the river.

REMEMBER, storm water is not treated and goes straight to a body of water — where we swim & fish!

How can I help?

Do not allow pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to drain onto parking lots, streets and gutters or into storm drain inlets and ditches use sparingly; away from the drains; not before expected rainfall; and prevent sprinkler water from causing their runoff into drains.

Do not blow grass clippings, leaves, weeds, etc. onto streets and gutters or into storm drain inlets and ditches bag them or compost away from drains.

Do not dispose leftover cleaners, solvents, or household hazardous wastes into storm drains. Use completely or take it to a collection center.

Do not allow power wash water, if used in conjunction with chemicals/soaps/solvents, to enter storm drains. Collect and discharge wash water or discharge to the sanitary sewer.

Executive Director
Planning and Development
City of Mobile

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT



Potential Pollution

Inside Operations

Outside Operations

Cleaning Service Contractors

Training

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How can I help?



Storm Water Management
Educational Series

Potential Pollution

Food Service Establishments (FSEs) can potentially be a source of pollution to the storm drain system. Examples of potential pollution from FSEs are:

- Fats, Oils and Grease
- Spills & Leaks
- Wash Water
- Chemicals
- Trash and Debris

Inside Operations

- Wash water containing soap, bleach, and other chemicals must be discharged into mop sinks or floor drains, not into parking lots, ditches, or storm drains.
- Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink or over a floor drain.
- Recycle used cooking grease and oil. Don't pour it into trash cans, sinks, floor drains, onto a parking lot, or into ditches or storm drains.
- Store chemicals and cleaning fluids indoors to prevent spills.

Outside Operations

- Conduct all cleaning indoors whenever possible. Floor mats, filters, and garbage cans should not be cleaned outdoors unless all wash/rinse/waste water is contained and disposed of into the sanitary sewer.
- Use dry cleanup methods, such as cat litter or absorbent pads, for spills. Sweep up and properly discard all absorbent materials.
- Keep dumpster areas clean and keep lids and drain plugs closed. Do not fill dumpsters with liquid waste.
- Do not clean dumpsters onsite. When cleaning is needed, notify your waste hauler for cleaning or replacement.
- Use adequate containers with spouts when transferring oil and grease to recycling bins to minimize spills.
- Maintain grease traps to prevent overflows and have contents properly disposed of as needed.
- Clean parking lots regularly to remove food waste, cigarette butts, and other trash and debris from outside areas.
- If a chemical/soap/detergent is applied when pressure washing, ensure that the wastewater is contained and properly disposed into the sanitary sewer.

Cleaning Service Contractors

- Instruct any contractors you hire for cleaning hood vents, floor mats, etc... to collect all wash/waste water and dispose into the floor drain or mop sink. Ensure that they have a plan in place to clean up spills in order to prevent accidental discharge to the storm drain system.
- Instruct and prohibit contractors from pouring anything into parking lots, ditches, catch basins, inlets, or storm drains, including pressure washing waste water if a chemical/soap/detergent is used.

Training

- Educate employees about the harmful effects of allowing food waste and wastewater to enter the storm drain.
- Train all employees on proper disposal procedures for debris, toxic chemicals, solid waste and liquid waste.
- Train all employees on the proper use of spill cleanup materials.
- Retrain employees annually or as needed. Train new hires.