



City of Valdosta Utilities Department

Water | Sewer | Stormwater

FOOD / RESTAURANT INDUSTRY STORMWATER TIPS

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, parking lots, roofs, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?

Regardless of your restaurant size, pollutants can be discharged into the City's stormwater system if not handled properly. Pollutants can come from a leaking garbage dumpster, the rinsing of food containers, grease containers, and trash cans outside, and/or while pressure washing the parking lot. Individually, these discharges can be small, but as a group, they can result in significant water quality problems for the City and on downstream.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few tips for good operating practices within the Food / Restaurant Industry:

| Tip | Good | Bad |
|--|---|---|
| Cleaning Floor Mats and other Restaurant Equipment | Do clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a separate wash area or a properly drained outside area. | Do Not wash them in a food prep or food storage area. Do Not wash them in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk, or street. |
| Dry Cleaning Methods | Do use dry cleanup methods, such as sweeping, to keep parking lots and outdoor areas clean. If a liquid spill occurs, use an absorbent material such as kitty litter. Once absorbed, sweep it up, bag it, and dispose of it in the dumpster. | Do Not hose down the parking lot, outdoor eating areas, or spills. |
| Keep Dumpster Area Clean | Do keep dumpster area clean and lid closed. | Do Not overfill dumpster or fill with liquid. Do Not rinse the dumpster or dumpster area, unless it drains to a floor drain that is clean and connected to the sanitary sewer system. |
| Recycle Grease & Oil | Do pour waste grease and oil into easy to manage portable containers with lids, then transfer to appropriate drums or barrels for recycling. | Do Not pour grease or oil into sinks, floor drains, storm drains, or onto parking lots or streets. |
| Wash Water Disposal | Do pour wash water, such as mopping water, into a janitorial or mop sink. | Do Not pour it out onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street. |



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Utilities Department
P.O. Box 1125
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
Phone: (229) 259-3592
After Hours: (229) 333-1832
www.valdostacity.com

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