

## WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Storm water is precipitation from rain or snow, and melt-water, that flows over the ground and pavement. This water either seeps into the ground or flows through the storm sewer system (storm drains, ditches, swales, culverts, etc.) and in to lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, or coastal water.

**When it rains...it drains.**

## STORM SEWER SYSTEM VS. SANITARY SEWERS

The storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems have two distinct functions, and it's important to understand the difference.

**Storm sewer** systems are intended to collect and transport runoff from rainfall and snow melt. Storm sewer systems do **NOT** remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into lakes, streams, wetlands, or oceans. Storm drains and ditches are typical entry points to the storm sewer system.

**Sanitary sewers** collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, washing machines, and floor drains, and direct it to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes most pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged to a lake, stream, or ocean.

# Storm Water Compliance at Food Establishments

U.S. ARMY GARRISON  
FORT WAINWRIGHT ALASKA

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on storm water pollution prevention, contact the Fort Wainwright Water Program Manager (DPW Environmental) at (907) 361-9949.

For disposal of hazardous materials and waste, contact the Fort Wainwright hazardous waste storage facility (Building 3489, operated by the waste turn-in contractor) at (907) 356-2023.





## KEEP POLLUTANTS FROM FOOD FACILITIES OUT OF STORM WATER

Fort Wainwright has a variety of food establishments such as dining halls, restaurants, cafeterias, bakeries, coffee shops, and grocery stores. Potential storm water pollutants at these facilities include fats, oils, grease, disinfectants, degreasers, and other cleaning products. Alaska state law and federal regulation prohibit discharging these pollutants into Fort Wainwright's storm sewer system.

All waters flowing into Fort Wainwright's storm sewer system remain *UNTREATED* and could potentially reach the Chena River, lakes, or a wetland. Substances such as grease, detergents, and cleaners (even "biodegradable" ones) can be harmful to aquatic life.

Waste from mop buckets, equipment cleaning, tallow bins, and dumpsters must not be discharged to the storm sewer system.

## GOOD PRACTICES TO PREVENT CONTAMINATED STORM WATER AT FOOD FACILITIES

### Mop Buckets and Sinks

- NEVER empty a mop bucket where it will drain into a storm drain, ditch, swale, or river. Always use the mop sink.
- Keep the mop sink available. Don't use it for storage.

### Spills

- For spills of materials such as grease, oil, and cleaning products, use a mop, rag, or absorbent materials (such as kitty litter or absorbent pads) to clean spills.
- Dispose of used absorbent by placing it in a sealed plastic bag and place it in the garbage dumpster.
- Store cleaning fluids indoors so leaks and spills won't reach storm drains or roadside ditches.

### Garbage Dumpsters

- NEVER dispose of liquids in the garbage dumpster.
- Keep the garbage dumpster drain closed and inspect for leaks on a regular basis.
- Keep the garbage dumpster lid closed and locked (if possible) when not in use to keep out rain and scavengers.
- Use garbage bags.

### Grease and Oil

- ALWAYS use approved, properly labeled containers to dispose of grease and oil. Containers should be placed on secondary containment to catch incidental leaks and be protected from weather. Always fasten and secure the lid/bung.

- Drums shall be clearly labeled: e.g., "Used Cooking Oil."
- To minimize spills when transferring grease and oil to the waste container, use large funnels.
- Address spills as soon as possible. Use dry clean up methods, such as kitty litter or absorbent pads.
- Maintain secondary containment to prevent overflows by properly disposing of material collected in containment pan.

### Equipment Cleaning

- Clean floor mats, garbage cans, and other large pieces of equipment at mop sink or interior floor drain.
- Do NOT clean food pans outdoors or wash food into the storm drain inlet.

For items that are too large to be effectively cleaned indoors, consider the following options:

- Hire a cleaning service that has the right equipment to properly dispose of wastewater, or contact the Fort Wainwright Water Program Manager (contact information on back).

### Pressure Washing

- Water from pressure washing outdoor surfaces should be discharged to the sanitary sewer or otherwise properly disposed of without letting it flow into storm drains. Use dry clean up methods to clean outside areas whenever possible.
- Restaurants that use contractors to do their pressure washing are still responsible if cleaning water is improperly routed to the storm sewer system.



Keep all trash container lids closed to avoid precipitation and scavengers from entering. Properly dispose of loose trash around your establishment. Containers used to dispose of fats, oils, and grease should be contained and protected from weather.