



# Good Housekeeping Practices for RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS-Fact Sheet

---

## Protect the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado

Be THE difference in San Benito by preventing stormwater runoff pollution from your site. Preventing stormwater pollution from occurring is undoubtedly less costly than cleaning up water pollution after the fact. Preventive measures include common sense good housekeeping practices for the outdoors like sweeping regularly to remove silt, sand, and litter from your parking lot, covering dumpsters, and controlling kitchen grease waste stored outside.



Please see next page.

## Good Housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Restaurants, Food Service Facilities, and Distributors

*Utilize these Good Housekeeping BMP's to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution in local resacas, the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado.*

- ✓ CONTROL KITCHEN GREASE STORAGE. Ensure grease storage containers are not leaking and in good condition. Take steps to prevent grease from dripping or overflowing when transferring and emptying containers. Container lids should fit securely and be inaccessible to vandals and animals. Never dispose of grease in a storm drain.
- ✓ BE NEAT WITH TRASH HANDLING. Non-hazardous and non-liquid solid wastes should be containerized in tied bags prior to disposing in dumpsters. Lids on trash cans and dumpster containers should fit securely to prevent dispersal of trash by animals or wind. Regularly inspect waste storage areas for litter.
- ✓ CONTROL OUTDOOR WASHING ACTIVITIES. Wash items outdoors only as a last resort and according to the San Benito Code of Ordinances (Ordinance 2492). Employ BMPs if you must conduct washing activities outdoors to avoid wastewater to runoff to the storm drain. Use minimum amounts of water to avoid producing excessive runoff that may contain detergent or pesticide residues, bacteria or grease. Polluted wash water, even in small amounts, can accumulate in storm drains and waterways where it can harm aquatic life and impact water quality.
- ✓ KEEP IT CLEAN. Sweep the sidewalk and parking lot outside your front and back doors to control litter and debris, cigarette butts, and packaging waste from customers and deliveries. Pick up and dispose of the trash properly. Conveniently locate trash cans and cigarette receptacles for your customers' use to encourage proper disposal of wastes, wrappers, and packaging from your premises. Trash cans should be covered with securely fitting lids.
- ✓ ELIMINATE ILLICIT DRAIN CONNECTIONS. Plumbing from indoor sink drains should not discharge directly into storm drainage systems, gutters, creeks, and streams; instead, indoor drains should be plumbed according to our local building code.
- ✓ CONTROL EROSION AND LANDSCAPED AREAS. Use native shrubs, plants and natural groundcovers to beautify your site, control areas where pedestrian traffic has damaged plants, and consider alternative materials, such as river rock or mulch, in areas of heavy use. Watch slopes for soil erosion.