

## Prevent Fats, Oils, and Grease from Blocking the Sewer lines

Fats, oils, and grease enter the drain as liquids but turn into solids that coat your pipes. This



“gunk” can block the sanitary sewer and cause sewage overflow into your facility or into stormdrains that lead to the washes and rivers. To stop the fat buildup in sewer lines, the solution is simple – don’t put fat, oils, or grease down the drain.

### Practices in the Kitchen

- Collect waste cooking oil and grease in portable containers with lids. Transfer into drums or barrels for recycling.



- Do not pour oil or grease down any drain. Recycle or use absorbent materials. Dispose of small quantities of fat and grease waste in the trash.

- Dry-wipe pots, pans, dishware, and work areas to remove all visible grease before washing. Dispose of waste in the trash.

- Use drain screens to capture food waste and dispose of it properly into the trash.

- Use water temperature less than 140° F.

- Train employees about proper grease disposal and post “NO GREASE” signs near all sinks and drains.

## Maintenance of Grease Traps and Interceptors

- Reduce solids going to the grease trap or interceptor. Solids can either limit the holding capacity for grease or plug the trap.

- Inspect and clean grease traps weekly to ensure proper operation.

- Have a licensed septage hauling company inspect and pump out grease interceptors monthly or more frequently to ensure proper operation.

- Observe grease pump-out to verify that it is properly completed and keep maintenance records on-site for reference and regulatory review.

Check [www.grecycle.com](http://www.grecycle.com) for locations to drop off used cooking oil.

Report sewage spills and discharges to Pima County Wastewater Management 24-hour emergency line at (520) 740-6500.

PCWWM will report the spill to ADEQ within 24 hours.

Report spills, waste disposal, or other discharge into a street or stormdrain to the City of Tucson’s Stormwater Management Section at (520) 791-4251 or visit our web site at <http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/stormwater> and click on “Report a Concern”.



Help Prevent  
Stormwater Pollution

# Food Service Facilities



Prepared By the City of Tucson’s  
Stormwater Management Section

Stormdrains are for Rainwater,  
Pure and Simple.

# Pollution Prevention

Clean and healthy creeks, rivers, and washes are important to the residents of Tucson.

However, allowing debris from your business to enter gutters and stormdrains can lead to stormwater pollution.



Stormdrains carry rainwater from our streets to our rivers and washes, and should never contain wash water, trash, grease or other pollutants.

The primary sources of stormwater pollution from restaurants are sanitary sewer backups and improper outside waste or wash water disposal. When pollutants from these sources enter streets or stormdrains they are carried with storm runoff directly into our washes without any treatment.

**USE GREASE INTERCEPTORS TO CAPTURE FATS, OILS AND GREASE.**

This brochure explains procedures your food service establishment can use to help preserve water quality by keeping debris out of stormdrains and by preventing fats, oils, and grease from blocking sanitary sewer lines.

## Cleaning Spills and Equipment

- Never hose a spill into a gutter, street, stormdrain, or wash.

- Before mopping a wet kitchen spill, absorb it with towels, cat litter or other absorbent materials.

- Sweep up dry spills immediately and dispose of material in the trash.



**ABSORB WET SPILLS WITH ABSORBENT MATERIAL OR TOWELS; DISCARD IN THE TRASH.**

scrapings in the trash.

■ Scrape grease and food waste from floor mats and filters before cleaning. Dispose of scrapings in the trash.

- After scraping, clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink or a designated, curbed area connected to the sanitary sewer. Do not wash mats outside into streets, sidewalks, parking lots or drainage ways.

- Consider using a cleaning service for these activities.
- Never use a hose to wash down the parking areas. This will only spread the pollutant over a larger area.

## Dumpster/Grease Bin Area Cleaning

- Locate dumpsters away from stormdrains and sump drains.

- Keep the area around the dumpster clear of trash and other debris. Do not overfill the dumpster.

- Securely cover outdoor used grease and oil storage containers and provide secondary spill containment.

- Cover dumpsters to block insects, animals, rainwater and wind.

- Sweep or vacuum up trash and throw it away.

- Absorb wet spills with cat litter, towels or similar materials. Discard in the trash.

- Do not rinse your dumpster area!

Doing so can cause grease and trash to enter the streets or stormdrains.

- Have leaky dumpsters repaired or replaced.

Contact your trash removal provider about replacing leaking receptacles.



**USE INDUSTRIAL MOP SINKS FOR CLEANING MOPS, TOWELS AND FLOOR MATS.**