



Restaurant / Food Service Establishment (FSE) Guide to “Good Housekeeping”

The following reference material is to be used by the restaurant / FSE as a guide to facilitate compliance under the current Davidson County, **Metro Water Services (MWS) environmental regulations**. However, in order to insure compliance within Metro Nashville/Davidson County, a restaurant / FSE manager must be aware of *all* pertinent Metro, State, and Federal regulations and not simply those contained within this document.

When cleaning and sanitizing the floors, kitchens, restrooms, outside dumpster areas and parking lots of a restaurant / FSE, all individuals involved must first understand that the wastewater produced is harmful to the environment and **must be disposed of in a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary waste treatment plant. The storm drains and parking lots in Metro Davidson County do not route water to the MWS sanitary waste treatment plant.** Instead, the storm drains and parking lots within Davidson County are part of Metro’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This MS4 includes all storm drains, roads, ditches, culverts, or parking lots that are designed to route **clean/unpolluted stormwater**, safely into the streams of Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

The NPDES division of MWS has the specific task of monitoring all discharges into this MS4 for the purpose of maintaining the water quality of the streams within Davidson County. If disposed of improperly into the MS4 or stream, **the waste washwater from the restaurant’s floor, kitchen, restrooms, outside dumpster area, vent hoods, and parking lot would damage this stream and the aquatic life within it, even when biodegradable cleaners are used.** Nearly all discharges into the MS4 and streams (including the restaurant’s waste washwater) are deemed “Illicit Discharges” and are illegal in Davidson County under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) § 15.64.205. Additional examples of Illicit Discharges can be found on the back side of this document. If you have questions, contact the MWS NPDES office at (615) 880-2420.

As stated previously, **the dumping of restaurant cleaning wastewater down a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary treatment plant is the proper method of disposal for the restaurant and food prep industry.** Most internal drains including floor drains, sinks, and toilets route wastewater directly to the sanitary treatment plant. By dumping this waste material down a sanitary drain, it is insured that this wastewater will be properly treated at a treatment plant and not have any detrimental effects on the environment. All discharges into sanitary lines/drains that route to a treatment plant are monitored by the Industrial Compliance Section of MWS and are regulated under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §15.50 “Industrial Waste Discharges”. If you have questions, call the MWS Industrial Compliance office at (615) 862-4590.

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our streams as a valuable natural resource and your help in the protection and improvement of the streams within Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

This publication is a public service of:
Metro Water Services
NPDES Program
Storm Water Quality Control Team
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Metro Water Services is in the process of complying with all appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines. For additional information contact Joseph A. Estes, Sr., 1600 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208-2206; telephone 615-862-4862.



Minimizing Stormwater Pollution Impacts From Your Food Service Establishment:

Additional examples of illicit discharges:



Always maintain a clean lot. Make sure used cooking oils are not spilled around the oil recycling bin and that bins are serviced/emptied regularly. See that dumpster drain plugs are in place and that food dumpster seals are functioning properly and preventing seepage. Always dispose of mop bucket water down an inside drain, mop sink, or sanitary line and never pour mop water outside onto the lot. Clean up all spills using "Dry" clean-up methods (absorbent material), shovel or scoop up, place in sealed container and dispose of in trash.



Never place oil recycling bins near a garbage dumpster. Bins placed too near a garbage dumpster could be knocked over by the garbage truck during collection.



Never pour fats oils or grease (FOG) down storm drains, sewer drains, storm grates, or on the ground!



When outside lots or hood vents must be washed/pressure washed, always use proper contain and capture practices and never allow wash water to enter a storm drain even when using biodegradable detergents. The term "biodegradable" simply means that the product will not harm bacteria in the sewage treatment plant and that it breaks down faster than more conventional products. Biodegradable detergents can cause a fish kill in a creek just as fast as any other type of detergent.



Prevent rainwater "inflow" to the Sanitary Sewer. Repair all sewer cleanout covers, cover outdoor mop sinks, and remove gutters that are discharging to any outdoor mop sinks and drains.



Have Questions?... Call the MWS Storm Water Control Team - Phone: (615) 880-2420 or [313-PURE](tel:6158802420)

WEBSITE: www.nashville.gov/stormwater