For Information:

For information on "closed-loop" suppliers and recycling/disposal vendors, contact:
County of Riverside
Health Services Agency
Department of Environmental Health
at (909) 358-5055.

SPILL RESPONSE AGENCY:
HAZ-MAT: (909) 358-5055
AFTER 5:00 P.M.:   (909) 358-5245 OR 911

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL: (909) 358-5055

RECYCLING INFORMATION: 1-800-366-SAVE

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN: 1-800-506-2555

To order additional brochures or to obtain information on other pollution prevention activities,
call: (909) 955-1111.

The Cities and County of Riverside
StormWater/CleanWater Protection Program
1-800-506-2555

StormWater
CleanWater
PROTECTION PROGRAM

StormWater Pollution

What you should know for...

THE FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY

ONLY RAIN | IN THE DRAIN

Best Management Practices (BMPS) for:

- **Restaurants**
- **Grocery Stores**
- **Delicatessens**
- **Bakeries**

StormWater Pollution . . . What You Should Know

Riverside County has two drainage systems - sanitary sewers and storm drains. The storm drain system is designed to help prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets. Since the storm drain system does not provide for water treatment, it also serves the *unintended* function of transporting pollutants directly to our waterways.

Unlike sanitary sewers, storm drains are not connected to a treatment plant - they flow directly to our local streams, rivers and lakes.

Waste or washwater generated by the food service industry often contains materials such as food wastes, oil, grease, detergents, and degreasers. These materials can degrade local waters when allowed to flow into a storm drain system.

Stormwater pollution causes as much as 60% of our water pollution problem. It jeopardizes the quality of our waterways and poses a threat to groundwater resources if pollutants percolate through soil.

The Cities and County of Riverside StormWater/CleanWater Protection Program

Since preventing pollution is much easier, and less costly, than cleaning up "after the fact," the Cities and County of Riverside StormWater/CleanWater Protection Program informs residents and businesses on pollution prevention activities such as the Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in this pamphlet.
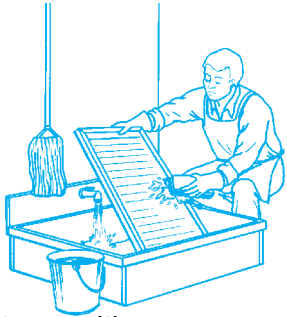
The Cities and County of Riverside have adopted ordinances for stormwater management and discharge control. In accordance with state and federal law, these local stormwater ordinances **prohibit** the discharge of wastes into the storm drain system or local surface waters. This includes discharges from the food service industry containing food wastes, oil, grease, detergents, and degreasers.

PLEASE NOTE: A common stormwater pollution problem associated with the food service industry is the discharge of washwater into alleys and gutters, and the hosing down of outdoor areas. Often, these activities flush pollutants into the storm drain system. The discharges of pollutants is *strictly prohibited* by local ordinances and state and federal regulations.

A Menu of Activities . . . to Keep Our Water Clean

Cleanin' It Right . . .

Pour mop and wash water into the mop sink or down floor drains . . . not into gutters, alleys, parking lots or a storm drain. Wash greasy equipment only in designated wash areas which are properly connected to the sewer system with an appropriate oil/water separator. Also, avoid washing kitchen mats, garbage containers, and other items in areas where wastewater is likely to flow into a storm drain.

Watch Out For Spills . . .

Use dry methods for spill cleanup. Don't hose down outside spills. Use rags or absorbents such as cat litter and then dispose of in the garbage, or handle as hazardous waste as appropriate. If necessary, mop the area with a minimum amount of water.

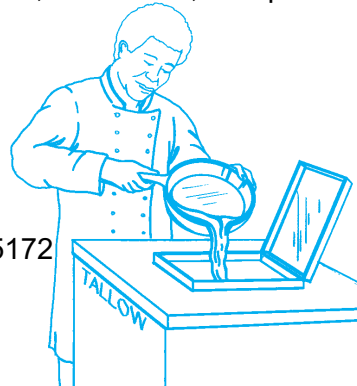## Proper Storage and Disposal . . .

General cleaners, floor cleaners, solvents, and detergents often contain toxic substances. Read labels carefully and store and dispose of these products properly.

REMEMBER: Don't throw toxic waste into the trash or into a storm drain. To report toxic spill call 911. For information on hazardous waste pick-up call (909) 358-5055.

Grease and Oil . . .

Handle and dispose of grease properly. Save used cooking grease and oil for recycling in tallow bins or sealed containers. Never pour grease into a sink, floor drain, dumpster or storm drain. Watch out for, and report to management, overflowing grease interceptors. Call (909) 358-5172 for disposal information.
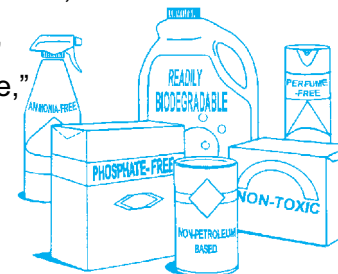
How 'Bout That Dumpster . . .

Keep dumpster and loading dock areas clean. Control litter by sweeping - don't hose down the area. Replace leaky dumpsters and keep lids closed to keep out rainwater.

Use Water-Friendly Products . . .

Whenever possible, purchase water-based cleaning products. Look for products labeled "non-toxic," "non-petroleum based," "ammonia-free," "phosphate-free," and "perfume-free," or "readily biodegradable."

Outdoor/Sidewalk Areas . . .

Sweep up food particles, cigarette butts, and trash from outdoor dining areas before rinsing or steam cleaning. Don't use toxic bleaches or detergents when you pressure wash outdoor dining areas, entrances or surrounding sidewalk areas.

You may be already implementing *many* of the BMPs prescribed in this brochure. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPS.

Also, please note that the Riverside County Environmental Health Department will monitor potential sources of stormwater pollution activities during regularly scheduled inspections of food service facilities. If Health Department staff observe activities which may be contributing to stormwater pollution, suggestions will be provided and/or use of prescribed BMPS listed in this brochure will be offered.

Please remember:

ONLY RAIN   **NO DUMPING**   **IN THE DRAIN**

Everyone contributes a little to the problem of stormwater pollution. Now it's time for all of us to become part of the solution!