

## NPDES.

As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters. In most cases, the NPDES permit program is administered by authorized states. In the state of Virginia, the program is known as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Since being introduced in 1972, the NPDES permit program is responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's water quality\*.

*\*Source: Environmental Protection Agency*



### **For More Information Please Contact:**

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## A Guide For Restaurants In Stormwater Pollution And Illicit Discharge Prevention



*Prepared & Distributed By:  
City of Danville, Virginia  
Department of Public Works*

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## Where Do Surface Runoff and Storm Drains Go?

Some people believe that discharges and runoff that enter into storm drains go to the wastewater treatment plant before being released into the environment. The fact is that anything that enters a storm drain is discharged back into the environment untreated. This is because storm drainage systems and sanitary sewer systems are separate from each other.



**Stormwater pipes discharge directly into the environment without treatment.**

## Is Your Restaurant Polluting the Environment?

Improper cleaning and waste handling practices can introduce waste into drainage systems and pollute our local creeks, streams, and rivers. Items such as solvents, cleaners, degreasers, food waste and grease cause bacteria levels to increase in these watercourses which can harm plant and aquatic life and make people sick. The City of Danville's Urban Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control Ordinance prohibits any materials or substances from being discharged into the municipal storm drains or watercourses other than stormwater\*.

*\* Certain exceptions apply.*

## Cleaning and Disposal.

Using proper cleaning procedures and disposal methods can help eliminate waste in the drainage system and in local watercourses.

- Wash floor mats, kitchen mats, filters, and garbage cans in a location that will insure that the wastewater will go into the sanitary system and not into the environment.
- Pour wash water into a sink, not outside.
- Recycle grease and oil. Do not pour these items into the sink as they will cause the sanitary sewer system to clog and overflow. Also, do not pour these items outside onto the ground or into a storm drain.
- Pick up and sweep up trash outside regularly; especially before rinsing or steam cleaning.
- If pressure washing is done outside using detergents or other cleaning products, the waste water should be collected and disposed into the sanitary system and not allowed to flow into storm drains.

## Grease Management.

Grease and cooking waste needs to be properly disposed of because they can cause blockages in the sanitary system and pollute the environment.

- Install and utilize pretreatment equipment such as grease interceptors and clean regularly.
- Do not pour grease into waste recepticals, sanitary drains, storm drains or out on the ground.

## Maintain Dumpster Areas.

Solid and liquid waste materials can leak from trash containers into the environment.

- Keep dumpster lids and grease barrel lids closed.
- Have leaking dumpsters replaced or repaired immediately.
- Keep the dumpster area clean.
- Have a spill cleanup kit readily available in case of dumpster leakage or spills.

## Educate Your Employees.

Your employees are more likely to follow good cleaning and disposal practices if they understand how their actions can impact the environment.

- Discuss the importance of pollution prevention with employees.
- Clearly define areas where mat washing and dumping of wash waters are allowed.
- Remind employees not to dump liquids into dumpsters.
- Provide employee training on how to cleanup spills.
- Share the information listed in this brochure with your employees.