

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the water generated from rain and snow events. The stormwater drainage system that carries precipitation water discharges to surface water sources such as the Kansas River with no treatment. Everything that is on surfaces exposed to rain; trash, cigarette butts, oil, antifreeze, grease, fertilizers, pesticides and more are washed into surface water as pollutants.

Food handling facilities such as restaurants, institutional cafeterias, grocery stores, bakeries, and delis can contribute to stormwater pollution mainly through improper cleanup practices that allow food particles, oil and grease, and cleaning products to flow to a street, gutter, or storm drain.

You can do your part to protect our surface waters from pollution by following the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in this document.



Legal Information

Discharge of pollutants into the stormwater system or into the sanitary sewer system is a violation of City of Lawrence Municipal Code and can lead to enforcement actions.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Municipal Code:

Chapter 19, Article 5

https://library.municode.com/ks/lawrence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH19UT_ARTIWASE_S19-101DE

Sewer Use Regulations Municipal Code:

Chapter 9, Article 2

https://library.municode.com/ks/lawrence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH9HESA_ARTIIHENU_S9-205FAOIGRST

Environmental Protection Agency

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes>



Stormwater Best Management Practices



Best Management Practices

- ✓ **Cover outdoor grease and oil storage containers.** Uncovered containers can allow rain-water to float oil and grease out, causing over-flow and violation of City Code.
- ✓ **Locate dumpsters and grease storage containers away from storm drain catch basins.** This gives you more time to notice and clean up any spills and leaks before they reach the stormwater system.
- ✓ **Keep grease container surfaces and dumpster pads clean.** Clean any spills on and near the containers using dry wiping and scraping methods. This will ensure grease and food is not washing off during rain events. Make sure the containers you carry oil to the dumpster in are not too heavy or full to avoid spills. Grease spills on the ground pollute stormwater, attract pests and create a nuisance hazard that will lead to City code violations.



Tip: Never leave your grease dumpster open or covered in grease and old food.



Image credit: <https://www.justrite.com/sorbentspillkit1-5gal-hazmat.html>

- ✓ **Scrape up and absorb spills before using water for clean up.** Use absorbent pads or other material to clean up grease and oil spills from floors, equipment, containers, and dumpsters. Do not use free flowing absorbent materials such as kitty litter or sawdust that can be discharged to the stormwater system unless the material will be cleaned up promptly.
- ✓ **Make sure that mop water and mat cleaning water is discharged to a sink connected to the grease interceptor, not outdoors.** Sweep floors and wipe up greasy areas first before mopping to minimize the grease and debris going to the sanitary sewer system.
- ✓ **Contain water from outdoor cleaning.** Do not conduct outside cleaning activities where wash water can flow into a storm drain.
- ✓ **Remove litter from dumpster areas, loading docks and other outdoor areas.** Any litter on the ground will be washed into the stormwater system in rain events.
- ✓ **Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground. They will end up in surface water.**

- ✓ **Routinely clean kitchen exhaust system filters.** Use dry wiping methods first, then clean hood parts in a sink connected to the grease interceptor. Uncleaned exhaust will allow oil and grease to accumulate on the roof and run off in rain events. Do not spray hood filters outside without containing wastewater for proper disposal.

- ✓ **Maintain your grease interceptor.** Grease Interceptors are designed to be maintained on a regular basis. They should be pumped out by a qualified contractor when grease and solid material make up 25% of the capacity. Failure to maintain grease interceptor equipment can back up wastewater in your establishment and cause grease blockages and overflows in the sanitary sewer system. These overflows can leak raw sewage into the stormwater system and our surface water. Chemical and biological additives are not a substitute for maintenance and cleaning.

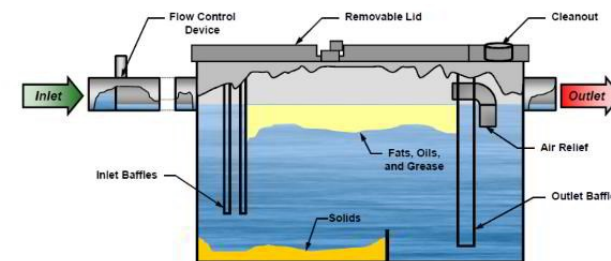


image credit: https://inspectapedia.com/plumbing/Grease_Trap_Hydrmechanical_BAPPGs.jpg

- ✓ **Scrape or wipe food and grease from dirty dishes into the trash or compost before washing.** This will reduce the load on your grease interceptor so that it can do its job more efficiently.
- ✓ **Train kitchen staff and other employees about how they can help ensure BMPs are implemented.** Training and explaining benefits of activities will motivate and educate people to prevent pollution.
- ✓ **Never pour oil or grease down any drain.**