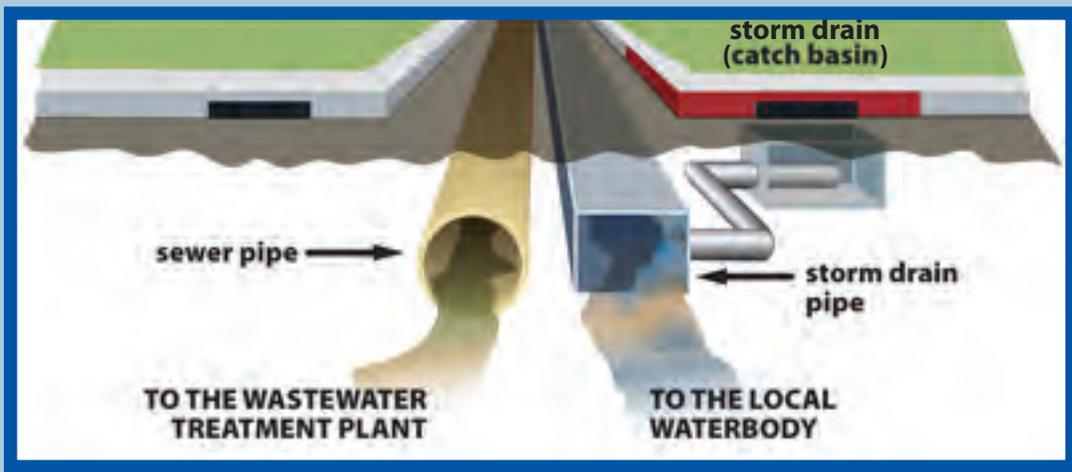


Restaurants can Help keep our Waterways Clean



Restaurants constitute an essential industry in Springfield. Just as it is true for individual households, day to day practices in the operation of restaurants can have a huge impact on local stormwater quality. "Stormwater" refers to runoff from sources like rain and irrigation water. Stormwater flows to storm drains, swales, ditches, or a system of pipes, eventually ending up in the McKenzie or Willamette Rivers. Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated before entering our waterways.



Never pour, wash, or allow anything to leak into a storm drain.

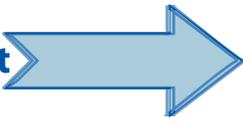
Only rain down the drain!

Many common cleaning and fluid storage practices can lead to contamination of surface waters. Some of the more prevalent restaurant-related pollutants include:

- Oil and Grease
- Chemicals
- Trash
- Automotive fluids



Clean water is essential for our quality of life. We rely on clean water for drinking, economic success, recreation, and a healthy environment for our families. By following the guidelines in this handout, your business can help prevent pollution at its source! Not only is stormwater pollution prevention good for the community, it is required through the City of Springfield Municipal Code, section 4.372. To keep our rivers clean we need to keep stormwater clean.

How you can do your part 

The River Begins at Your Front Door

To report a stormwater problem:
Water Pollution Reporting Hotline
(541) 726-3694



The Problem

Oil and Grease. Oil and grease from cooking can lead to trouble for wildlife in our rivers if handled improperly. When spills and leaks are allowed to flow into storm drains, they travel directly to our waterways. Once introduced to our creeks and rivers, oil and grease coats fish gills, making it difficult or impossible to breathe. These substances also clog stormwater pipes, increasing the risk of flooding and leading to expensive cleanups.

Chemicals. Chemicals are used in restaurant facilities for disinfecting food service equipment and maintaining processing equipment. Fertilizers and pesticides are sometimes used for landscaping. These chemicals, even in small concentrations, can kill fish and other wildlife in our rivers. Fertilizers in waterways lead to excessive plant and algae growth.

Trash. Food scraps, wrappers, and other debris are unsightly in waterways. Food scraps break down in rivers and rob fish and other aquatic life of oxygen. Salmon and (other coldwater fish) are especially susceptible to drops in dissolved oxygen. Debris, such as plastic, can choke wildlife that mistakes it for food.

Automotive fluids. Leaky vehicles in parking spaces and drive throughs deposit oil, anti-freeze, and transmission and hydraulic fluid onto pavement. These fluids contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals, which are harmful to wildlife and aquatic ecosystems. Some of these toxins accumulate in the environment and increase in concentration as you move higher up in the food chain.

The Solution

Connect all inside drains to the sanitary sewer system.
Recycle or properly dispose of oil and grease.
Clean equipment like grills, hoods, and fryers indoors and away from storm drains.
Request a regular pick-up service to avoid dumpster overflows.
Clean up spills immediately, using dry methods; do not hose materials into a storm drain.
Store grease drums/dumpsters under cover from rain, isolated from the stormwater system and protected from vehicle traffic.

Switch to "greener" biodegradable plant-based products. They are safer both for the environment and employees.
Never use chemicals or soap to clean surfaces outside if the discharge will flow to storm drains.
Clean floor mats, garbage cans, and other soiled items in a covered area with a drain plumbed to the sanitary system.
Pour mop water into a utility sink or sanitary sewer drain, not a storm drain.
Limit your use of pesticides and fertilizers. Never apply these products when rain is in the forecast. Do not apply them to pavement or near storm drains.

Frequently sweep outdoor parking lots, drive throughs, and garbage storage areas.
Always keep dumpster lids closed, unless trash is actively being added. This eliminates exposure from wind and rain.
Never put liquids in the trash dumpster.
Provide ash trays and garbage cans near outdoor dining areas.

Have kitty litter or other absorbent materials onsite to clean up all leaks immediately.
If pressure washing parking lots and driveways, always place oil-absorbent booms or socks around storm drains for protection. Sweep up debris afterwards and dispose of properly.
Clean parking lot storm drains out at least annually, and dispose of water and debris properly.