
Dumpsters and Compactors

Potential Storm Water Pollution Problems

- Dumpsters / Compactors: liquid waste, rainwater, and/or hydraulic fluid can leak and flow to the gutter, storm drains, or washes; and
- Litter, waste, and garbage can wash away with rainwater to the gutter, storm drains, or washes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Minimize the amount of liquid placed in dumpsters or compactors. For example, drain liquid food wastes to the sanitary sewer and place only the empty container in the dumpster or compactor. Or use a screen or colander to remove solids from liquid waste; liquid waste goes to the sanitary sewer, and solid waste goes to the trash.
- Keep dumpster lids closed to keep out rainwater.
- Route leaks and other wastewaters from dumpsters and compactors to the sanitary sewer system. See additional guidelines for routing wastewaters to the sanitary sewer.
- Control litter. Make sure waste is contained in dumpsters and compactors. Sweep dumpster and compactor area regularly.
- Inspect dumpsters and compactors regularly for leaks or stains (at least once a month).



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- If leaks or stains are found, immediately replace leaking dumpsters and compactors or repair the problem.
 - Inspect the dumpster and compactor area for litter regularly (once a week is generally acceptable). Immediately replace leaking dumpsters and compactors.
 - Train employees on proper methods of handling and disposing of waste. Employees should be aware of: non-storm water discharge prohibitions; wastewater discharge restrictions; and best management practices (BMPs).

Cleaning and Washing Activities

Potential Storm Water Pollution Problem

Wastewaters laden with soap, dirt, grease, oil, and food are dumped or allowed to flow into the parking lot, storm drains, detention basins, or washes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Clean equipment (including carts, floor mats, garbage cans, and tray racks) in a designated wash area that allows no discharge to the storm drains.
 - ◇ If the designated wash area is outdoors, collect and pump the washwater to the sanitary sewer.
 - ◇ Temporary cleaning areas must be adequate to contain all washwaters. The temporary cleaning area is inadequate if washwater reaches gutters, storm drains, detention basins, or washes.

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- Discharge washwaters to the sanitary sewer system when cleaning flat surfaces only (e.g., loading docks, parking lots, etc.). Follow these steps, if applicable:
 - ◇ Sweep the area before washing.
 - ◇ If wet cleaning is required, block the storm drain or contain all washwaters, and discharge to the sanitary sewer system.
 - ◇ If **no soap** is used, washwaters from the following types of surfaces may be discharged to landscaping : sidewalks; plazas; building surfaces; etc.

Other Maintenance Practices

Potential Storm Water Pollution Problem

Oil, hydraulic fluids, grease, coolant, and other fluid deposits on the ground from storage or maintenance of heavy equipment (e.g., fork lifts, vehicle equipment, refrigerator units, etc.) can wash away with rainwater to parking lots, storm drains, detention basins, or washes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Maintain equipment regularly. Check for leaks or stains. Fix leaks immediately.
- Capture leaks and drips during maintenance activities with a drip pan.
- If equipment is stored outside, provide a tarp or roof to protect the equipment from rainfall.



Spill Control Measures

Potential Storm Water Pollution Problems

- Waste foods and garbage dumped, washed, or allowed to flow to parking lots, storm drains, detention basins, or washes.
- Spillage from grease bins allowed to flow or wash away with rain to parking lots, storm drains, detention basins, or washes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Dispose of waste food and garbage in the dumpster or compactor.
- Be prepared for spills:
 - ◇ Develop spill procedures for different types of spills (e.g., garbage, liquid food wastes, fuel etc.).
 - ◇ Train employees on cleanup procedures.
 - ◇ Keep cleanup kits in well-marked, easily accessible areas.
- If you mop up a spill, dispose of mop/washwater appropriately in indoor sinks for discharge to the sanitary sewer.



*Remember that your supermarket is responsible for the behavior of any contractors you hire. Confirm that the contractor has received the proper training. Be sure you know how your contractor will be cleaning your equipment and disposing of washwater. **Putting washwaters with soap or any other type of pollutant (dirt, oil, grease, food, etc.) into the storm drain or detention basin is not allowed.***

For More Information About Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality:
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>
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SUPERMARKET DUMPSTER: BEHIND THE SCENES

Preventing Storm Water Pollution



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