

Storm Water Education for Restaurants

The City of Joplin (as well as surrounding municipalities and Jasper and Newton Counties) is currently educating restaurants regarding the minimum control measures involving the best management practices for the E.P.A. Storm Water Phase II Rule...Now for the TRANSLATION ? ...

Rain and snowmelt that doesn't soak into the ground, washes across yards and parking lots and into storm drains. Storm drains are designed to direct the water away from roadways, parking lots, and other impermeable surfaces as quickly as possible to prevent flooding. HOWEVER, the **water entering a storm drain is not the same water that fell from the sky.** As storm water travels across impermeable surfaces and yards, it picks up contaminants such as grease, soil, oil, antifreeze, gasoline, litter, plus yard care and cleaning chemicals. This water with its pollutants is carried down pipes leading directly to our local streams and rivers. Water flowing over many restaurant grounds and parking lots can diminish water quality in our streams. Below are just a few of the ways that restaurant owners and managers can keep our water bodies clean.

◆ **Maintain your sewer lateral:** You are responsible for the maintenance of the sewer lateral up to the sewer main. Regular maintenance and service of your lateral and grease trap interceptor will make a big difference in helping to prevent sewer overflows to the storm drain system.

◆ **Do not rinse "wash water" down a storm drain** or onto your parking lot.

◆ **Clean equipment** such as floor mats, exhaust filters, garbage cans, carts, or tray racks in a designated indoor area such as a janitor/utility/mop sink or **floor area with a drain** connected to the sanitary sewer.

◆ **Keep dumpster lids closed** to keep out rainwater. Inspect dumpsters for leaks. Consider locking dumpsters to prevent illegal dumping. Do not hose out the dumpster interior. Apply absorbent on any fluids spilled in the dumpster.

◆ **Use a Broom:** Frequently sweep and pick up litter from outside areas, including parking lots, outdoor eating areas, drive-thru areas and trash/grease bin areas.

◆ Many **commercial cleaning products** contain hazardous materials such as caustics or strong acids. Never pour hazardous waste down the drain. Never mix different wastes. Consider using alternative materials. Look for "non-toxic," "non-petroleum based," "free of ammonia, phosphates, dye, or perfume," or "readily biodegradable" on the label. Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols, and formaldehyde.

◆ **Report Illegal Dumping:** Contact Mary Anne Phillips, Storm Water Education Manager at the City of Joplin 624-0820 Ext. 501 or the Health Department at 623-6122.

**The Storm Drain System and Sewer System are separate
HOWEVER
a BLOCKAGE in the Sanitary Sewer System CAN overflow in to the Storm Drain System.**

