OUTDOOR STORAGE OF GREASE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

What is an MS4?

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The cities inlets and pipe systems collect stormwater runoff and discharge into waters of the US without prior treatment. The storm system is separate from the sewer system, which is sent to Santa Rita for treatment.

Discharges of anything not exclusively stormwater into the cities MS4 is considered an illicit discharge. This is a violation of City of Durango Municipal Code Sec. 25-176.

Grease harms wildlife and negatively impacts recreation use of the Animas River.

Outdoor restaurant grease storage is one of the cities top illicit discharge cases every year.

Outdoor grease storage has a high potential to negatively impact water quality. There are best management practices which can reduce the risk of polluting our waterways.


- Do not dispose of grease, oil, fats, or other liquid wastes in a dumpster designed only for solid waste. These dumpsters are not leak proof.
- If the grease bin is too full, utilize other containers such as 5-gallon screw top buckets.
  - Store the excess grease until able to empty into the designated grease bin.
  - Store these 5-gallon buckets in a location where they will not be tipped over.
- Ensure staff have easy access to carry the grease. Provide a dolly if the distance to bin is far.

Stormwater runoff is rain or snowmelt that flows across the land and has the potential to pick up pollutants.
| Create a spill prevention plan | 1. Designate one or two staff members to routinely check the level of the grease bin and call the hauler well in advance of a full bin.  
2. Have buckets available to dispose of grease as a backup when needed.  
   **Staff Training:**  
   - Ensure staff know to check the grease bin level before adding more grease to prevent overflows.  
   - Train staff on what to do if the bin is full.  
   - Ensure all staff are also trained on the spill response plan. |

| Create a Spill Response Plan | 1. Contain the spill. Using absorbent material or socks.  
2. Protect waterways – ensure the spill does not run into an inlet.  
3. Place absorbent material over all the spilled material.  
4. Allow to soak.  
5. Sweep all material and dispose of in leak proof garbage bag.  

   *Tailor this plan to your restaurant, include location of spill kit. Post this in a place all staff see.* |

| Keep a spill kit stocked and available | **Spill Kit Contents:**  
- Absorbent material (kitty litter, sawdust, floor dry)  
- Absorbent socks – used to provide containment  
- Trash bags to collect the contaminated material |

| What to do if the spill has entered an inlet | 1. Call a waste management/spill response company to help clean the spill  
2. Report to the City of Durango  

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**Spill Response Example:**

A barrier was placed between the spilled area and the inlet. Absorbent material was distributed on the spilled area. Material is being vacuumed now that the spill has soaked into the absorbent.