

# Clean It Right!



**Water** that runs off sidewalks, alleys, and street gutters flows into storm drains. Anything entering storm drains flows directly to the Bay or Ocean. Unlike sanitary sewers (sinks, toilets, etc.) which flow to a wastewater treatment plant, storm drains flow directly to local waterways without treatment of any kind!



## Did you know that...

Every time you wash down waste storage areas, wash kitchen mats in an alley or sidewalk, or dump mop water outside—food particles, grease, cigarette butts, cleansers, and other wastes flow into storm drains and end up in the San Francisco Bay or ocean? These wastes contaminate our local creeks, bay, and ocean and are hazardous to humans, fish, and other wildlife.



### DON'TS:

### DOs:

#### Don't

Wash floor mats, hood filters, and other equipment outdoors.



#### Don't

Hose down trash/recycle bins, grease storage, or parking areas unless storm drains are blocked and water is vacuumed or pumped to the sanitary sewer.



#### Don't

Dump grease into trash bins or sinks. Disposing of grease into sanitary sewers is prohibited by local ordinances because it clogs sewer lines. Never pour grease into gutters or storm drains.



#### Don't

Power wash roof exhaust equipment, building exteriors, or other outside areas unless the storm drains are blocked and wash water is vacuumed or pumped to the sanitary sewer.



#### Do!

Wash mats indoors near a kitchen floor drain connected to a sanitary sewer or in the mop sink, away from food handling areas. If you don't have a mop sink or floor drain, contact a company to wash them for you off site.



#### Do!

Use dry clean methods such as sweeping or vacuuming to keep waste storage areas, parking lots, and other outside areas clean. Use a kitty litter type absorbent on grease and oil spots and to clean up spills. If water or cleansers are needed, spot mop the area and dispose of water into a mop sink or toilet.



#### Do!

Collect grease in containers and contact a grease removal/recycling company to haul them away. The grease will be recycled into useful products like soaps, animal feed, or bio-diesel fuel. Go to [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org) for a list of grease haulers. **Secondary containment for grease bins is recommended!**



#### Do!

Contract with a mobile cleaning company who agrees to collect all wash water for proper disposal. Sidewalks may be rinsed sparingly using water ONLY if trash and debris are first swept up, grease is removed, and water is vacuumed or pumped to the sanitary sewer.



### For information

on stormwater pollution prevention visit [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org) or call (650) 363-4305.



A program of City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County

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**Remember...**  
in San Mateo County it is **illegal** to allow any pollutants to enter storm drains. By following these practices, you can help avoid local code violations and fines.

