



Stormwater Management Program

Food Vendor Fact Sheet

ILLICIT DISCHARGES

What is an illicit discharge? Technically, anything other than stormwater entering our storm sewer system is considered an illicit discharge. The storm sewer system includes City streets, curb and gutter, and drainages, as well as storm inlets and pipes.

Why should we care about illicit discharges?

Our storm sewer system does not go to a treatment plant before it discharges to the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek. Anything that enters the system has the potential to enter our waterways. Oil, antifreeze, pet waste, yard waste, trash and other pollutants will contaminate the waterway, making it less safe for human and wildlife use. Our drinking water comes from the Arkansas River – the more pollutants that enter, the more that has to be removed and treated before use.

Pollution Prevention

Do not dump oil, chemicals, waste and trash into the streets. Clean up spills and properly dispose of trash and other waste. If you are discovered intentionally dumping chemicals and waste into the storm sewer system, which against City Municipal Code, you will face enforcement actions, up to and including fines.

The City of Cañon City welcomes your participation in local festivals and events. As food vendors at outdoor events or along City streets, unique opportunities exist to assist the City in protecting the water quality of our local waterways. This fact sheet contains some tips for minimizing potential impacts to our storm sewer, stormwater runoff and local waterways. Stormwater runoff enters the storm sewer system, which includes City streets, and flows directly to our local waterways, including the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek. It is not treated before reaching the river or creek so any contaminants it picks up along the way, such as grease, trash and food waste has the potential to be deposited in the river. We hope these tips will help to minimize the potential for contamination of stormwater runoff and encourage food vendors to contact the Cañon City Stormwater Program with any questions they may have.

Trash Disposal

Provide trash receptacles if the event coordinators do not so patrons can dispose of the trash from their meals. This will help to keep items such as napkins, straws and straw wrappers from being easily blown away.

Trash receptacles should be placed where it is convenient for all to use, but not where they may be easily tipped over.

Secure lids should be provided for the trash receptacle to prevent trash from spilling out.

If you notice that trash receptacles provided by the event coordinators or the City of Cañon City are full or overflowing, please contact the event coordinator or City personnel to arrange to have them emptied.

Utilize the dumpsters or trash receptacles provided for disposing of solid waste generated by your food preparation or bag your trash and take it with you for proper disposal later.

Good Housekeeping

Secure all items, such as condiments, napkins, straws or utensils to prevent items from being blown away.

Police the area around your food truck as often as possible and pick up trash or dropped items to dispose of properly.

Apply absorbent, such as kitty litter, to spills and drips on any pavement around your food truck. Sweep up the absorbent and dispose of in the trash.

Empty drip trays from drink dispensers into a container for disposal. **Under no circumstances can these be emptied onto the pavement or ground.**

Illegal Dumping Examples



Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Management

Disposal of fats, oil and grease generated through food vendor's daily operations can significantly contribute to stormwater runoff pollution if not managed properly. These tips should be considered to properly manage FOG wastes.

Never dump grease, oil, fats or other liquid wastes in a dumpster designed only for solid waste. These dumpsters are not leak-proof.

Check if the event coordinator has arranged for a grease disposal bin to be available during the event. If one is available, use it for disposal of used grease and oil.

If a grease disposal bin is not available, place the used grease or oil into appropriate containers with secure lids and take them with you for proper disposal.

Do not store used grease containers outside of your vendor truck or cart. Stormwater can wash grease residue off of the containers, contaminating the runoff. If the containers must be stored outside, they need to be under cover or have secondary containment placed around them to catch any spills or contaminated stormwater. Secondary containment can consist of tubs or other containers designed to catch the spills, drips or stormwater from the grease containers. Be aware that any liquid in the secondary containment cannot be dumped on the ground; it must be disposed of properly.

Employee Training

Employee training is a vital part of preventing potential stormwater pollution. The following items should be considered during training of employees.

Fats, oils and grease should never be dumped down a sink drain or toilet. These substances will cause clogging of the sanitary sewer which degreasers, solvents or hot water will not remedy.

Likewise, any fats, oils, grease or other liquid should never be dumped on the ground, pavement or in a storm drain.

Only dry clean-up methods should be used on spills and drips. These can include rubber scrapers, paper towels, absorbents, or kitty litter. Absorbents and kitty litter can be swept up and disposed of in the regular dumpster.

Educate employees and provide the proper procedures and tools needed to transfer used grease, oil and fats to the storage container.

Waste water in mop buckets or cleaning containers should never be dumped outside, especially not on pavement. If it is not greasy it could be disposed of in a sink or toilet. If it contains a layer of grease, it may need to have the layer skimmed off and disposed of separately.

Enforcement

If illegal dumping of any substance is discovered or reported, the City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program will make every attempt to identify the party responsible. Enforcement actions may include written notices of non-compliance, fines or assessment of abatement costs incurred by the City or its contractors for the clean-up. If the dumping is shown to be willful, criminal charges may be pursued.

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 276-5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.