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## **A-8: Storage of Solid Waste and Food Wastes (Including Cooking Grease)**

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to garbage dumpsters, trash compactors and outdoor waste containers (e.g., cooking oil/grease receptacles).

*Potential pollutants include but are not limited to fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.*

BMPs are required by King County Water Quality Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

### **Required BMPs**

- Store wastes in leak-proof containers with solid lids (e.g., dumpsters and trash compactors). No rainwater should be able to enter the container and no fluids should be leaking out.
- Keep all waste receptacles (e.g., dumpsters, garbage cans, used cooking oil/grease containers) closed except when adding waste.
- Leaking outdoor waste containers must be repaired or replaced. Contact your waste hauler for replacements if the container is leased.
- Trash compactor wastewater must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, septic system or collected and hauled off-site for proper disposal. It must not be discharged to ground, stormwater drainage systems, surface waters or groundwater.
- Trash compactor drain lines should be connected to the sanitary sewer or septic system. If a connection is not possible, collect the wastewater in a dead-end sump or similar device. The wastewater containment must be easily inspected, maintained, and pumped out for proper disposal.
- Used cooking oil/grease containers should be labeled with their contents and have a secured lid.
- While oil/grease containers are not required to have secondary containment, they should be located and/or secured such that they can't be tipped over.
- Clean up any spills immediately using absorbent material or scraping it up. Grease cannot be left on the ground.
- Have spill cleanup materials nearby.
- Use a lid or cover when transporting cooking oil/grease containers from kitchens to outside grease containers to prevent contents from spilling.
- Ensure that drip pans or absorbent materials are used whenever grease containers are emptied by vacuum trucks or other means.

- Dispose of collected cooking oil/grease as garbage if it is not being recycled. Do not dispose of fats, oils, or grease (FOG) into the sanitary sewer, septic system, or stormwater drainage system.

### **Required Routine Maintenance**

- Keep the area around the grease container clean and free of debris.
- Check storage containers frequently for leaks and to ensure that lids are secure.
- Regularly check for loose debris in the waste container storage area and sweep if the area is paved. After sweeping, the waste storage area may be hosed down—without the use of soaps, detergents, or other chemicals—if there are no accumulations of oil and grease present and the rinse water is not discharged to a stormwater drainage system or surface water. The rinse water can infiltrate to ground or be discharged to a sanitary sewer.
- Do not hose down or apply soaps, detergents, or other chemicals to waste storage areas with accumulated oil and grease. Oily wastewater can clog stormwater drainage systems and sanitary sewer lines. Contact a service provider to remove and properly dispose of oil and grease accumulations.
- If cleaning or rinsing waste containers, dispose of all wastewater into the sanitary sewer. If sanitary sewer is not available, then store the wastewater in a holding tank, dead-end sump, or truck it off-site to an approved disposal location.

### **Additional Information**

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
  - [A-31: Parking Lots, Driveways and Outside Storage Areas](#)
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
  - [Disposal](#)
  - [Drainage Maintenance Contractors](#)

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*For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit [kingcounty.gov/stormwater](http://kingcounty.gov/stormwater).*