

Questions?

For more information about the **FIU Stormwater Management Program** contact the **Department of Environmental Health and Safety** at **305-248-2621**.

Information cited from **Clean Water Ways**.



Why is Stormwater Runoff Important?

Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks.

Stormwater eventually flows directly to a lake, river stream, wetland or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters.



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Stormwater Management Program



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Movement To Make The
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What is Stormwater?



Stormwater is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets.

Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff. stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants as it flows or when it causes flooding and erosion of stream banks.

Stormwater travels through a system of pipes and roadside ditches that make up storm sewer systems. It eventually flows directly to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or coastal water. All of the pollutants storm water carries along the way empty into our waters because storm water does not get treated!

STORMWATER FACTS

Storm drains do not remove pollutants and were designed for the specific purpose of draining water from sidewalks and streets.

WHY IS CONTAMINATED STORM-WATER A PROBLEM?

Restaurant and other business establishments can harm the environment if they are not careful with disposal and cleanup procedures. With proper training and education, business personnel can prevent debris from entering storm drains, thus helping to improve the water quality in neighboring waterways. This brochure will explain steps your establishments can take to help protect water quality.



ILLICIT DISCHARGE IN STORM DRAINS AND SANITARY SEWERS

Illicit discharge such as disposal of oils, grease, and fats down the drain affect our waterways in a negative manner since Storm drains are engineered to gather and transport stormwater to our local waterways. Storm drain systems do not remove any pollutants from stormwater before it is discharged into streams and bayous. Only unpolluted water is discharged into a storm drain!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

Stormwater runoff from restaurants and businesses can have a major impact on water quality by forcing sediment and other pollutants into streams, ponds, lakes and other sources of water. There are many different ways in which simple good housekeeping measures can protect our waterways.

Oil, Grease and Fats

- Do not pour oil, grease or fats down the drain or in sinks.
- Use absorbents to collect spills that take place.
- Conduct regularly scheduled maintenance of grease traps.

Dumpsters

- Do not rinse dumpster. Request an exchange by notifying the company in charge of removal of dumpster.
- Always use garbage bags when disposing trash in dumpster.
- Confirm the drain plug is securely in place before disposing trash.

Restaurant Cleaning

- Inspect and clean trash from the outside perimeter of the restaurant.
- Rinse and clean garbage cans and floor mats in a mop sink.
- Dispose of wash water and mop bucket residue into mop sink.