

The Greener Davis Digest

October 2009

Help Us Prevent Pollution

Autumn is here and with it will come the rain! Time again for some storm water pollution prevention reminders.

The City's storm drain system is primarily for the conveyance of rain water only. The City has a permit to discharge storm water and is regulated by the State of California for our storm water discharges. Below are some general practices that will help us meet state regulations.

General Best Practices:

- After cleaning the floors, pour mop water into a mop closet, utility sink or curbed floor drain. Do not pour it onto a parking lot, in an alley, on a sidewalk or into the gutters.
- Keep the area around outdoor trash bins free of litter, trash and used food containers. This is a Health Code requirement. Customers and employees are more likely to use the bins correctly when they are kept clean.
- Do not dispose of liquid material in your dumpster or rinse the dumpster out. If needed you may request a clean dumpster from Davis Waste Removal.
- Keep dumpster lids closed to prevent rain from entering. The bins should be water tight. This will also help reduce pests/vermin issues.
- Clean liquid spills promptly around grease bins and dumpsters. Use absorbent material for liquid waste; do not rinse area clean.
- Run-off water from high pressure washing of parking lots must be contained, recaptured



- and disposed of into the sewer system. Check the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) website www.basmaa.org for the correct procedures. Washing of shopping carts, food baskets, etc. must also be disposed in the sewer system.
- Outside eating areas must be swept before rinsing (only water is permitted for rinsing).

Cleaning Kitchen Mats

- Clean/wash kitchen mats in a mop closet or utility sink. It is a violation of Health Codes to wash mats in food preparation sinks.
- To ease cleaning, consider replacing and using smaller sized mats.
- Consider washing mats at a coin operated wash.
- Do not wash, clean, rinse kitchen mats outside if the water runs to the gutters or storm drain system.

Kitchen Roof Exhaust fans

- Uniform Fire Codes require interior kitchen hoods be cleaned periodically. Cleaning should include the exterior exhaust housing and grease trays on the roof.
- Cleaning contractors must capture all rinse/cleaning waters and not discharge them to the building gutters, roof surface, or the City's storm drain system. Verify that your contractor captures all waste associated with cleaning the exhaust system.
- Cleaning contractors should have a City of Davis business license and current training certificates available.
- Grease collection trays need to be checked regularly and cleaned as needed. Business staff may clean the grease trays to eliminate outside contractor costs. Trays must be covered from the elements.

- Regular routine cleaning of the inside grills by restaurant staff will help keep the ducts cleaner, and reduce the need for outside cleaning contractors.
- Do not clean exhaust grills outside.

Surface Cleaning

Surface cleaning rinses everyday dirt/grime from building surfaces and keeps outside eating areas clean and sanitary.

- View the 30 minute surface cleaning presentation on the BASMMA website (www.basmaa.org).
- Do not use any soap, cleaners or sanitizers for outside cleaning and disposal to the storm drain system.

For more information, contact the City of Davis Public Works Department Storm Water Program at 757-5625.

Yard Material Piles

It's Fall! Leaves are falling from the trees and yard waste piles are again numerous. To make disposal of yard material easy for you and safe for others, please follow these guidelines:

- Place yard materials directly in front of your property—not across the street or around the corner—it will not be picked up!
- Place your yard material 18" from the curb or gutter.
- Yard material piles should never be larger than 5 feet in any dimension.
- Do not block fire hydrants, driveways or storm drain inlets with yard waste piles.
- Do not park or drive over yard materials.
- Do not place yard materials in bags—leave them loose in piles on the street.

Be aware that yard material piles can create serious hazards for cyclists; **bike lanes should never be blocked**. This may mean that your yard waste pile cannot be 5 feet wide if it obstructs the bike lane. Please be aware that yard material piles can cause cyclists to crash by slipping or getting branches stuck in their wheels; due to their low profile and non-uniform size, cyclists may not see the piles until they come upon them, especially in the absence of street lighting.

Yard material placement—single-striped bike lane and double striped bike lane

