



Stormwater Outreach for Restaurant and Food Truck Owners

The Walla Walla River and its tributaries are designated as water quality limited (degraded) by the State of Washington and we need your cooperation to improve the water quality of our rivers and creeks. Some of our local creeks exceed water quality standards for fecal coliform, pesticides, temperature, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). High levels of fecal coliform, which come from pet waste and failed septic systems, make fish, animals, and people sick and can make swimming unsafe. Pesticides and PCBs can be toxic to aquatic life and may cause cancer. Also, warmer water contains less oxygen that aquatic organisms need to survive.

[Chapter 13.15 of the Walla Walla Municipal Code](#) prohibits the discharge of any material other than clean, uncontaminated stormwater into the City storm drain system, underground injection control wells (i.e., drywells), and/or surface and ground waters such as Mill Creek or any of the many other creeks running through the city. Prohibited contaminants listed in the code include, but are not limited to, trash, debris, petroleum products, paints, detergents, drain cleaners, pesticides, fertilizer, chlorinated swimming pool or spa wastewater, chlorine, bromine, other disinfectants, food wastes, lawn clippings, silt, sediment, concrete, and sewage. Storm drains do NOT empty into sewer pipelines that carry wastewater from our sinks and toilets to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Only clean stormwater may be discharged into stormwater systems, including drywells, and surface or ground waters.

The following are best practices of what you can do to help prevent and reduce stormwater pollution:

Facility Maintenance

- Wastewater from indoor cleaning operations may not be dumped or allowed to flow into streets, alleys, storm drains, or creeks. It should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer unless it contains fats, oils, or grease (FOG). FOG should be disposed of in the garbage and not down the sanitary sewer.
- Wash water from areas inside the restaurant must not be allowed to flow into streets, alleys, storm drains, or creeks.
- Hood vents and mats must not be cleaned outdoors where wash water can flow into streets, alleys, storm drains, or creeks.
- Outdoor paved areas containing dirt, oil, or other fluid residue may not be hosed off into the street or storm drains. Dirt must be swept up and fluids need to be cleaned up with absorbent cloths or other absorbent material such as cat litter. All used absorbent material must be picked up and disposed of properly in the garbage.
- Sidewalk and exterior building wash water may be allowed to flow into the street provided surfaces are swept first to remove as much dirt and debris as possible and detergents are not used.

Garbage/Waste Disposal

- Garbage and food waste must be properly disposed of and may not be placed, washed, or allowed to flow into streets, alleys, storm drains, or creeks.
- Garbage cans or dumpsters located outdoors need to be kept under shelter, covered to keep out rainfall, or in areas where runoff cannot flow into streets, alleys, storm drains, or creeks.
- If garbage containing liquid residue is placed in these receptacles, liquids need to be drained as much as possible to prevent leakage.



- If liquid does leak out of garbage cans or dumpsters, it needs to be contained and cleaned up using absorbent material. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 527-4591 to replace leaking cans and dumpsters.
- Waste grease from cooking operations must be stored in a leak-proof container and kept covered to keep out rainfall.

Gas and Oil Spills

- Any spills or leakage of gas, oil, or other vehicle fluid needs to be cleaned up and prevented from flowing or being washed into the street. Clean up all spills and leaks of fuel, oil, antifreeze or other fluids with absorbent cloths or other absorbent material such as cat litter. Pick up and dispose of all used absorbent material properly in the garbage.
- Vehicles that are leaking oil or other fluids and are being stored outdoors should have a drip pan placed underneath the vehicle to catch leaks.

Dirt and other Sediment

Care needs to be exercised to prevent exposed soil from eroding into the street.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please be advised that violations of the above-referenced municipal code could result in fines, penalties, or other remedies as allowable by law.

Questions and/or Comments?

Contact the City of Walla Walla Stormwater Coordinator at 509.527.4537