



# Running a Clean Ocean Business

To make sure your business is a clean ocean business, follow these guidelines:

## Cleaning Outside Areas

Sweeping is the preferred method for cleaning outside paved areas such as sidewalks, gutters, alleyways, outdoor eating areas, or steps. **If water is used to clean OR rinse, all wastewater must be collected and disposed of in the sanitary sewer.** The wastewater must not runoff into the street or be discharged into the storm drain system. Leaves and other debris should be removed from the street or gutter as well.

## Windows, Walls & Cleaning Buildings

The wastewater from cleaning windows, walls and building exteriors **CANNOT** be disposed of in the street or storm drain. Be sure that employees or a hired cleaning service utilize methods to prevent discharge of such waste to the street or storm drain.

If a sanding or blasting method is utilized to remove paint or graffiti, paint particles, blasting material, sand or dust are not permitted to reach the storm drain system nor are such materials permitted to be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. Sand and particles must be swept up and disposed of in trash so long as they are reasonably dry and do not contain lead-based

paint or other hazardous materials. For more information on how your business can dispose of hazardous waste, click [here](#).

## Refuse, Recycling Bins & Trash Enclosures

Do not place leaking containers or garbage bags into a dumpster. Seepage from trash and recycling containers may not discharge to or be allowed to reach storm drains. Whenever possible, avoid storing trash and recycling containers near or over a storm drain. **If you have a leaking recycling bin, trash receptacle or dumpster, please contact Waste Management Customer Service at (949) 642-1191 to get it repaired or replaced.**

Close dumpster and garbage can lids securely—do not allow trash to flow over the dumpster or garbage can. When cleaning trash and recycling enclosures or individual dumpsters or containers, the wastewater must be collected and disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. **This applies to all cleaning methods using water including: pressure washing, steam cleaning, rinsing with water only, mopping, scrubbing, etc.**

## Leaves, Landscaping & Storm Drain Inlets

Storm drains at your business must be kept free of leaves and debris.

Leaves, clippings and pruning waste must not be discharged, power-washed or blown into the street or storm drain system. Pesticides and herbicides must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

## Air Conditioning, Cooling, HVAC & Sprinkler Systems

Wastewater from roof or roof fixture cleaning, may not be discharged to the street or storm drains, or to a roof drain which flows to the street or storm drain system. When cleaning using solvents or toxic chemicals, the wastewater should be considered hazardous waste and disposed of appropriately. Ensure that employees or hired contractors are aware of these requirements and dispose of wastewater properly.

When draining sprinkler systems, the water should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. Any chemicals used to clean these systems should be stored according to directions and in proper containers to prevent spills and leaks.

## Floors, Floor Mats, Kitchen Utensils/Dishes & Kitchen Appliances

The cleaning of floor mats, kitchen utensils/dishes and kitchen appliances is not permitted in outside areas where wash water may flow to a street, storm drain, catch basin,

or waterway. Wastewater from mopping or floor cleaning should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system, not in the street or storm drain system. Make certain that employees or contracted janitorial services dispose of wastewater appropriately.

### Grease, Grease Removal Devices & Tallow Bins

Never pour oil, grease or other fatty liquids anywhere outside, into a sink, floor drain or storm drain. Clean grease traps and interceptors frequently. All waste cleaned from grease traps must be hauled and disposed of by a licensed liquid waste hauler. NEVER dispose of grease or grease removal device waste into a storm drain, sanitary sewer system, or the environment.

If grease removal devices are

replaced, they must be replaced with a device of equal or greater size and the installation must be completed by a licensed plumber or general contractor. Properly sized grease interceptors are strongly encouraged for all restaurants during change of ownership, remodel or new establishment. You will be required to install a grease interceptor unless you are granted an exemption from the Water Quality Department. Exemptions are only granted following the approval of a restaurant's grease control plan by the Director of Water Quality. To learn more about applying for an exemption click [here](#).

Save recyclable oil, grease, and meat fat in a tallow bin or other sealed container for proper removal and disposal. Tallow bins should be stored in a covered area, preferably

away from storm drains. Spills or leaks from tallow bins or grease containers must be cleaned up immediately. Ensure that the leak or spill has stopped and clean up using the following procedure:

- ⇒ Use dry cleanup methods to absorb leaks and spills
- ⇒ Sweep up litter and debris
- ⇒ Used absorbent can generally be disposed of in the trash as long as hazardous materials have not also been spilled or used in the clean up



### Contacts & Quick Links

[Orange County Health Care Agency Hazardous Waste Inspection Program](#)

Waste Management Customer Service  
(949) 642-1191

City of Laguna Beach Water Quality Dept.



### Why Grease Should Not Go In the Sewer

Sanitary sewer overflows are a serious problem and, in coastal cities, often result in beach closures. Grease is one of the most prevalent causes of sewer overflows. An analysis of overflows in the City of Laguna Beach sewer system,

between 1997 and 2000, revealed that roots and grease are the two primary causes of spills. Grease is responsible for an estimated 25% of sewer overflows.

Grease in the sewer system is generated in large quantities by food preparation facilities, such as restaurants that sell food for immediate consumption. Cooled grease from food preparation and cooking coagulates in the sewer pipes and can obstruct or restrict the flow of wastewater. Restricted flow causes solid material in the pipe to accumulate, resulting in blockages and wastewater spills.