

Stormwater management for food businesses

Fact sheet



Litter, grease and oil and other waste from restaurants, bars or cafés will be a source of pollution if they get into the stormwater system.

PUBLICATION 1334.1*
MARCH 2015

Authorised and published by
Environment Protection Authority Victoria
www.epa.vic.gov.au

Stormwater management and the law

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* it is an offence to discharge wastes, including washwaters, detergents, grease, fats, oils and litter to the stormwater system.

EPA and local government have the power to serve heavy fines and even prosecute businesses if you allow liquid or solid waste or litter to enter the stormwater system.

If a spill or discharge occurs to the stormwater, contact EPA 24 hours a day on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).

Do not let your business be part of the problem.

Shop owners and managers have a role to play in encouraging their customers to reduce the amount of litter and pollution in our stormwater drains.

Here are some steps you can take to protect our waterways:

- Check whether you are required to have a trade waste agreement with your water retailer. Contact your water retailer for more information.
- Identify drains near your shop and make sure food waste and oil can not spill from your grease trap, rubbish bin or yard into the stormwater drain. Run drains to the sewer or treatment area, according to your trade waste agreement.
- Make sure waste bins have secure lids so that litter does not blow around.
- Clean up litter, including butt litter, at your shop front and dispose of it in the bin.
- Wash bins off-site or use a bin-washing company.
- Detergents, oils and any other materials that could wash off the site must be stored in a bunded area to stop them getting into stormwater drains.

Stormwater pollution is a major threat to the Yarra River, its tributaries and Port Phillip Bay. It can affect the places we swim and fish and the visual amenity of our beaches and waterways.



Mark the stormwater entry points on your site

