



*Escondido Creek*

A **watershed** is an area of land that drains to a common point. For example, in the Escondido Creek Watershed a water drop that falls near Lake Wohlford can trickle down the hills into Escondido Creek and eventually to the ocean via the San Elijo Lagoon in Encinitas.

**Storm drains** are pipe and channel systems that prevent flooding of our streets by channeling storm water directly to our creeks and lakes. Anything that flows into the storm drains ends up in our water ways untreated.



*Remember, Only Rain in the Storm Drain.*



**City of Escondido  
Environmental Programs**

201 N. Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025

To report an illegal discharge:  
760.839.4668

For more information:  
[escondido.org/storm-water-program.aspx](http://escondido.org/storm-water-program.aspx)

**City of Escondido  
Environmental Programs**

**RESTAURANTS**



**Protecting  
Water Quality**

**Working with the Community  
to Improve the Quality of our  
Local Water Ways**

## Protecting Water Quality

*Restaurants contribute to storm water pollution through improper cleaning practices that allow food particles, oil, grease, trash and cleaning products to flow into the street, gutter, and/or storm drain. These discharges pollute our local creeks, rivers, lakes, and ocean. Below are best management practices (BMPs) for restaurants to improve water quality.*

### Cleaning and Disposal

- \* Routinely maintain all equipment and fix all leaks immediately when noticed.
- \* Use dry methods for spill clean-ups: rags, absorbents, brooms, and vacuums.
- \* Sweep, mop, or vacuum litter and food waste daily.
- \* Wash mats, filters, and garbage cans in an area that drains to the sewer and not to the storm drain system.
- \* Cover storm drain openings before washing equipment or outside areas. Dispose of wash water to the sanitary sewer system. Never clean equipment outside where water may flow into storm drain system.



### Grease Management

- \* Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) enters the sanitary sewer system through restaurant commercial sink drains.
- \* FOG can collect in the sewer lines and create sewer blockages that cause sewage spills into the storm drain system.
- \* Blockage in sewer pipes can send sewage backward out of a man hole into the street, which pollutes our environment.
- \* Install a grease trap or interceptor. Clean them regularly. Contract with a grease hauler to regularly empty the grease waste.
- \* Rendering oil bins can also be polluting. Make sure that the oil bin lid is kept closed. Store the bin under cover, so that it's not exposed to rain. Wipe any spills immediately.
- \* Post "No Grease" signs above sinks and on the front of dishwashers.

### Grounds Maintenance

- \* Routinely sweep and clean parking lots and paved areas around your establishment. Avoid hosing them down.
- \* Provide trash cans with lids in your parking lot to discourage littering.
- \* Apply pesticides and fertilizers according to label instructions and do not apply before a rain event.
- \* Adjust sprinkler-heads properly to avoid over-watering and irrigation runoff.

### Dumpster and Loading Area

- \* Keep dumpster lids closed and locked to prevent illegal dumping.
- \* Make sure to clean up liquid and solid waste from leaking trash containers before it flows into the storm drain system.
- \* Sweep up food particles, cigarette butts, and litter around dumpsters and loading areas regularly.
- \* Put trash and debris in tied plastic bags before placing them into a dumpster.

### Recycling and Water Conservation

- \* Post water conservation signs in restrooms near faucets. For more information on Water Conservation **760.839.4658**.
- \* Start a recycling program and make sure recycling bins are easily accessible. For more information contact the City of Escondido Recycling department **760.839.4818**.