

Protect Spa Creek & You Help Save the Chesapeake Bay

What goes into our storm drains flows directly into Spa Creek—*untreated*—and ultimately ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Anything splashed, poured, spilled or dumped on streets, alleys and gutters near Spa Creek is washed by rainwater into the storm drain system. Used cooking grease, cleaning chemicals and other types of pollutants generated by restaurants have been found in Spa Creek. Below are simple steps you can take to prevent pollution and help make Spa Creek a fishable, swimmable creek.

The GOAL: ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Cleaning and Spill Prevention

- Ensure waste disposal drains are not connected to the storm drain system.
- Clean all outdoor areas with a broom and damp mop instead of a hose.
- Pour all mop water and other wastewater into a utility or mop sink. Never dump wash water onto paved areas, alleys, sidewalks, or streets.
- Do not hose off vehicles, equipment, floor mats, filters, trash cans, or other items in areas that drain to a storm drain.
- Avoid toxic materials as much as possible. Store containers of liquids where they are unlikely to be knocked over. Cover stockpiled materials.
- Use dry cleanup methods for spills around building, grease barrels and dumpsters. Keep absorbent material like kitty litter, sawdust or sand on hand to contain spills. Never hose down a food or chemical spill.
- Pressure wash pavement only when necessary. Avoid using acids, soaps, bleach, and solvents. Block storm drains, contain and collect wash water for sanitary sewer disposal.

Landscaping

- Plant native plants and use organic lawn products.
- Redirect downspouts toward landscaped areas, where possible.
- Install rain barrels and use rainwater for outdoor water use.
- Consider redesigning parking and landscaped areas to include storm water management features (i.e., rain gardens, collection areas for roof runoff, and shared parking).

Dumpster and Grease Management

- Locate dumpsters and grease barrels away from storm drains.
- Install a secondary containment system such as a berm around the dumpster.
- Ensure that dumpsters and grease barrels have tight fitting lids and dumpster plugs are in place.
- Keep dumpster area clean. Never place liquid waste or leaking garbage bags into a dumpster.
- Recycle grease and oil in sealed containers. Never pour grease and oil into sinks, floor drains, paved areas, storm drains or waterbodies.
- Service grease traps regularly to prevent clogs.

Recycling, Water Conservation, and Education

- Institute mandatory recycling and ensure that employees understand the value of recycling.
- Create an easily accessible system for separating recyclables. Recycle spent fluids and batteries.
- Regularly check for and repair water leaks, control water usage to produce less wastewater.
- Educate employees to keep pollutants out of the storm drain system.
- When possible, label storm drains around your property “Chesapeake Bay Drainage” or “No Dumping” signs to deter disposal of wastewater of any kind.

Making these Best Management Practices part of your everyday operations will help you “Go Green” and earn you a reputation as a good corporate citizen who is concerned about the environment and the community.

This fact sheet is part of the Spa Creek Stewardship Program, an initiative of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC). The SCC is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Spa Creek watershed through education, preservation, mitigation and restoration.

Learn more at www.spacreek.org

*Prepared by the Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. for the Spa Creek Conservancy
Funded through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust*

