

Animal Care & Handling Facilities

Stormwater Best Management Practices



Storm drains are found in our streets and parking lots. You probably walk by a few of them a day, but just don't think much about them. Storm drains are put in place to gather stormwater runoff and bring to our local waterways (rivers, lakes, washes, and retention basins). Storm drains don't remove any pollution before entering our waterways. Stormwater runoff is now one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots and streets. So, if animal care & handling facilities aren't careful, they could be harming the environment. With the right knowledge, staff can prevent pollution from entering storm drains, therefore, helping to improve the water quality in local waterways.

What Can I Do?

- Regularly sweep and clean animal handling areas and properly dispose of droppings, uneaten food, and other potential stormwater pollutants.
- Wash animals in designated areas that drain to a sanitary sewer or vegetated area.
- House animals in paved, covered areas, if possible. If animals are housed in unpaved, uncovered areas, cover the ground with vegetation or other type of ground cover, such as mulch.
- If water is used for cleaning the housing areas: do not discharge wash water to storm drains. Block storm drain, contain wash water, and dispose of in sanitary sewer.
- Use rags, damp mops, or absorbent materials to clean spills—dispose of used spill clean-up materials properly.
- Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility that rinse water could flow to a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Train employees to practice pollution prevention.



For additional information or questions, please contact:

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