



# Stormwater Quality

## Why does stormwater quality matter?

The storm drainage system is designed to collect stormwater — rain and snowmelt — and release it directly into the Colorado River. Pollutants, such as fertilizers, pesticides, oils and other sediments are transported in stormwater as rain and snowmelt travel across lawns, roads, parking lots and other surfaces. This polluted stormwater then enters the Colorado River without filtration or treatment. Contaminants that enter the stormwater system degrade the quality of our drinking water and pollute our fish and wildlife habitats.

## How can you help?

As good stewards of the Colorado River, we must take extra precautions to ensure that stormwater runoff does not jeopardize the quality of our natural water source. Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and reviewing waste management systems will help ensure a safe work environment and provide a cleaner water source for years to come.



**MESA COUNTY**  
PUBLIC WORKS STORMWATER DIVISION

***Protecting Our Rivers.***

# BMP - Stormwater Quality for Restaurants

**Thank you for taking the time to review and apply Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater quality in our community. Through education and steadfast improvements, we can protect our rivers and preserve our local fish and wildlife.**

## **Good Housekeeping Practices**

- Avoid spilling onto floors or other surfaces through good housekeeping.
- Clean up spills immediately to minimize safety hazards and prevent spills from reaching a storm drain inlet.
- Use absorbent materials to clean small spills rather than hosing down the area. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.

## **Cleaning**

- Keep outside areas (dumpsters, parking lots, etc.) free of trash and debris, and regularly clean them to prevent pollutant buildup.
- Control litter by sweeping and picking up trash on a regular basis.
- Sweep up outside areas rather than washing them down.
- Do not dump mop water or wash floor mats or kitchen equipment outside. Pour mop water and wash water into the mop sink or floor drains. Take floor mats to a local car wash for cleaning.
- Whenever possible, purchase water-based cleaning products. Look for products labeled “nontoxic,” “non-petroleum based,” “ammonia-free,” “phosphate-free,” “dye and perfume-free,” or “readily biodegradable.”

## **Oil and Grease**

- Regularly inspect and clean out grease traps/interceptors.
- Always use proper oil and grease recycling receptacles. Never dump oil and grease wastes into storm drains or onto parking lots.
- Use care to avoid spills when taking used oil to the grease receptacle.

**Learn more at [stormwater.mesacounty.us](http://stormwater.mesacounty.us)**

