



## Tallow Bins

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) refers to vegetable or animal-based oils and fats that are used in cooking or produced as byproducts during food preparation. FOG from overflowing or leaking tallow bins stored outside can harm our creeks and waterways if they enter the storm drain system. When these pollutants enter the streets or storm drain inlets, they flow through the storm drain system directly to local waterways, eventually reaching the San Francisco Bay (Bay) without any cleaning or filtering. These pollutants can be **toxic to fish, wildlife, and people**. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit the discharge of anything but rainwater into the storm drain system.

**Help protect the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).**



*Never allow spills and leaks to enter storm drains. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit anything other than rain into the storm drain.*

## How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

### PLAN AND PREPARE

- Store tallow bins inside when possible and approved by County Health.
- Place tallow bins on a flat surface away from storm drain inlets if stored outside.
- Store tallow bins in secondary containment (i.e., in an additional cover or enclosure). Example methods include covered trash enclosures with a berm, drip pans with overhead coverage to keep rainwater out, or enclosed containment bins.
- Secure tallow bins to prevent spills and/or vandalism by using locks, heavy-duty straps, or anchoring them to a fixed structure.
- Keep a spill kit with absorbent materials in an easily accessible location.
- Place signs reminding employees to dispose of waste oil in a tallow bin, and not in a sink, indoor drain, or storm drain.
- Train all employees on these BMPs for spill prevention, spill clean-up methods, and storage.



**The discharge of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) to any storm drain inlet or waterway, or onto any land, street, or public right-of-way area is prohibited.**

# How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

## PREVENT OIL AND GREASE SPILLS

- Regularly inspect tallow bins and secondary containment for signs of wear, damage, or leaks, and fix these, or replace bins promptly.
- Prevent any overspill when pouring oil and grease into tallow bins by using a funnel. Monitor the oil level to prevent overflow.
- Secure and lock lids on tallow bins when not in use.
- Ensure the exterior of the tallow bin and secondary containment are maintained in a clean condition.
- If oil or grease residue collects on the container or secondary containment, replace the container, or properly clean it using dry methods (see below). If using wet cleanup methods, prevent wash water from entering the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Clean up any spills immediately (see below).
- Regularly clean and inspect the grease storage area.



## In Case of a Leak or Spill

- Clean leaks and spills using “dry clean-up methods” such as absorbent materials (e.g., kitty litter, Oil-Dri), cloths, or dry mopping.
- Keep a spill kit with these “dry clean-up methods” ready in case of an emergency.
- After removing the residue, clean the area using a mop and bucket. Pour the wash water into a mop sink or indoor drain.
- If wet cleaning methods are used, such as mop and bucket or pressure washing, contain all wash water so it does not enter storm drains. Properly collect and dispose of wash water into a mop sink or indoor drain.
- Do not rinse outside surfaces into the gutter, street, or storm drain.

**In the event of a fuel spill entering storm drains or surface waters, immediately notify the fire department (911) and your local stormwater agency (see list below). You may be responsible for notifying other agencies, including the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).**

## STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

**For spills or materials entering a creek, pond or reservoir call Valley Water's 24/7 Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151**

**For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact your local agency during regular business hours:**

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga  
(West Valley Communities) ..... (408) 354-4734  
Cupertino ..... (408) 777-3354  
Los Altos ..... (650) 947-2770  
Los Altos Hills..... (650) 941-7222  
Milpitas..... (408) 586-3365

Mountain View ..... (650) 903-6378  
Palo Alto..... (650) 329-2122  
San José ..... (408) 945-3000  
Santa Clara ..... (408) 615-3080  
Unincorporated Santa Clara County..... (408) 918-4609  
Sunnyvale..... (408) 730-7260