Austin Used Cooking Oil Initiative
Voluntary Compliance Standards

The City of Austin invites Used Cooking Oil Generators - including brick-and-mortar restaurants, mobile food vendors and other food service establishments (FSEs), and Used Cooking Oil Collectors/Haulers - to adopt the following Voluntary Compliance Standards. These standards are intended to improve the handling, storage, and transportation of Used Cooking Oil (UCO), avoid regulatory penalties, and prevent the need for the City of Austin to implement a Single-Service UCO Hauler Contract. These standards were developed in collaboration with local Generators and Haulers, using input provided during public stakeholder meetings in 2013.

Definitions:

Used Cooking Oil (UCO): Also known as "yellow grease," waste fat, oil or grease (FOG) from the food cooking or production process which is contained for transport/recycling/disposal.
Generator: A business that uses oil for the purpose of food cooking or production and produces UCO for recycling/disposal.
Hauler: A business hired by a UCO Generator to remove UCOs from a facility and transport to a recycling/disposal facility.
Container: A receptacle used to store UCO.

Intent:

These voluntary standards are designed to be a self-regulating way for UCO Generators and Haulers to achieve compliance with Austin's pollution regulations. Adherence to these standards will help control water pollution by preventing UCOs from entering storm drains and reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows caused by fats, oils and grease clogging wastewater lines (both of which ultimately end up in Austin's creeks and lakes). In addition, improper disposal of UCOs can cause sewage backups into FSEs themselves, costing businesses time and money.

There are diverse stakeholder interests and concerns from FSEs, Haulers, downtown property owners, downtown patrons. We encourage businesses to make the most of this initiative, and use it as an opportunity to:

- Set a new precedent for acceptable used cooking oil storage area cleanliness, staff handling procedures, and coordinated management of UCOs.
- Improve aesthetics and customer experience by eliminating unsightly and offensive grease storage areas.
- Take responsibility. Meet the requirements of city, state and federal laws while improving water quality in Austin's creeks and lakes.

Austin is recognized as a global leader in finding solutions to complex problems. Let's also lead in grease management.
Progress will take persistence and hard work from everyone involved. So please, let's join forces and work together to improve Used Cooking Oil management in Austin, Texas.

We request that a high-level member of your staff (with day-to-day control and responsibility over operations, such as an Owner or General Manager) review the following Voluntary Compliance Standards and initial those you feel you can accomplish. The City of Austin encourages you to adopt as many of the standards as possible. When finished, **Please send a copy of the initialed and signed voluntary standards document to the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department** by one of the following:

a. E-mail: Ryan.Hebrink@AustinTexas.gov
b. Fax: (512) 974-6337, ATTN: Ryan Hebrink
c. Mail: Ryan Hebrink
City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department
505 Barton Springs, 11th Floor
Austin, Texas 78704

Additionally, The City of Austin encourages Generators and Haulers to coordinate together during adoption of the Standards, and to attach a copy of the initialed and signed Generator and Hauler Standards to your Used Cooking Oil service contract.

For any compliance standards that you have questions about, or are unwilling or unable to agree to, please provide supporting discussion in the comment box at the end of this document, or contact the City of Austin Food Service Environmental Assessment program at: 512-974-1910. We are happy to answer questions and assist however we can.

HAULER – COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

_____H1. **Hauler** will provide City of Austin with a 24-hour emergency contact where a responsible party can be reached 24 hours per day, 7 days per week - to be used in the event of a grease spill or other emergency. Emergency contact information may be provided below:

Company Name:	_____
Emergency Contact Name:	_____
Emergency Contact Title:	_____
24/7 Emergency Contact Phone Number:	_____

Hauler will notify City of Austin of changes to emergency contact personnel.

_____H2. If identified to have responsibility for a UCO spill, **Hauler** agrees to cooperate with the City of Austin to address environmental and public safety hazards.

_____H3. **Hauler** will immediately mobilize to spills which they are responsible for. **Hauler** must be able to arrive to spills within 2 hours.

_____H4. If **Hauler** is not located within a 2-hour response time from container(s), then **Hauler** will obtain an advance agreement with a clean-up contractor or other workforce that can respond to container site(s) within 2-hours.

_____H5. **Hauler** will immediately report spills or observations of any quantity of UCO entering, or likely to enter, a storm drain or waterway to the City of Austin 24-Hour Pollution Hotline at (512) 974-2550.

_____H6. If **Hauler** observes any previously spilled or abandoned UCO upon arriving to a UCO collection site, they will notify the Generator during their visit or within 24 hours if Generator is unavailable at time of visit. Hauler may clean such spilled or abandoned UCO on behalf of the Generator as added customer service; however Generator should still be notified of these violations for which they are ultimately responsible.

_____H7. **Hauler** will respond on-site within 24 hours of receiving notification from a Generator customer or City representative that there is a non-emergency problem with the container or service.

_____H8. **Hauler** will plan collection routes and service intervals to target containers before they reach 75% full. Containers that are thought or known to be more than 75% full will be given service priority.

_____H9. **Hauler** will respond within 24 hours of receiving notification from a Generator customer or City representative that a container is at 75% capacity or more.

_____H10. **Hauler** will replace UCO containers within 48 hours when:

- Hauler finds a problem with container that cannot be corrected on-site.
- Generator notifies hauler of a problem with the container that cannot be corrected on-site.
- The existing container is need of thorough/off-site cleaning (see Standard H22, below).

_____H11. **Hauler** will coordinate with Generator to calculate the rate that used cooking oil is produced, the required on-site storage capacity, and frequency of Hauler collections. **Hauler** will inquire if and when Generator has special events that produce more than normal quantities of grease. **Hauler** will provide Generator with specific requirements for advance notice of special (non-emergency) collections.

_____H12. **Hauler** will provide Generator with a quantity and size of UCO container(s) that provides sufficient storage capacity, based on the calculations in Standard H11 (above).

_____H13. **Hauler** will furnish at least one container for each Generator. UCO containers will meet the following requirements:

- Sealed to prevent leakage of contents.
- Constructed of a corrosion-resistant, durable, easily-cleanable material.
- Equipped with an attached top lid that is of durable construction and prevents entry of rainwater.
- No wheels/castors or external valves.

HAULER – COMPLIANCE STANDARDS (continued)

_____H14. At Generator's request, the **Hauler** will provide a container with the ability to lock (to avoid unauthorized use, illegal dumping, theft and vandalism). When locking containers are used, the **Hauler** and **Generator** will communicate to determine who will provide and use corresponding locks and keys – depending on specific container configuration.

_____H15. **Hauler** will coordinate with Generator on the appropriate placement of UCO container(s) so the container:
- Does not receive water flows (i.e. away from rain gutter and air conditioning condensate downspouts)
- Is not placed on or adjacent to a storm drain or waterway.
- Is placed outside of vehicle traffic paths.
- Is not prone to damage (by vandals, swinging doors, etc.), that could compromise container integrity.
- Is accessible to the Generator and Hauler for easy transfers.

_____H16. In order to reduce traffic congestion and odor nuisances, **Hauler** collections in Downtown Austin will be during designated collection service hours: 12:00am – 6:00am.

_____H17. **Hauler** transport trucks must be properly maintained to prevent leaks of vehicle fluid and UCO.

_____H18. **Hauler** transport trucks must have a spill kit on board and be ready to handle spills. Minimum spill kit contents include: 50 pounds of dry absorbent, flat shovel, push broom, trash bags to contain waste.

_____H19. Following each UCO collection, **Hauler** will provide Generator with a waste disposal manifest (trip ticket) that includes the volume of UCO transported and the collection date.

_____H20. **Hauler** will clean-up all spills as they occur during their operations, including UCO transfer, dripping transfer equipment, and transport.

_____H21. **Hauler** cleaning of UCO containers and UCO spills will not result in the discharge of grease, wash-water or chemical cleaners to a storm drain or waterway. Cleaning byproducts must be collected and properly disposed of. If pressure washing a UCO container or storage area is desired, first contact the Watershed Protection Department at 512-974-2550 for cleaning procedure guidance and approval.

_____H22. **Hauler** will periodically remove UCO container(s) for thorough off-site cleaning, as needed to prevent stormwater pollution from greasy container runoff, upon Generator's reasonable request, and upon City of Austin's reasonable request. Containers removed for major cleaning will be immediately replaced with a clean container, so as not to interrupt Generator storage ability. Hauler's thorough offsite cleaning of UCO containers will be conducted in an appropriate wash area that allows for the proper collection and disposal of wash water to the sanitary sewer, with prior approval from Austin Water Utility Industrial Waste Division (512-972-1060).

_____H23. **Hauler** will allow the City of Austin to attach adhesive decals (approximately 8.5" x 11") to UCO containers displaying the following information:
- Contents: "Used Cooking Oil";
- Maximum container capacity (displayed in gallons);
- City of Austin 24-hour Pollution Hotline Number: 512-974-2550;
- Basic steps of UCO spill clean-up and disposal procedures;
- Generator name, address of UCO generation, and business phone number; and
- Hauler name and UCO-emergency phone number.

_____H24. **Hauler** will remove graffiti markings from UCO containers within fourteen (14) days of notification by Generator or City of Austin, as often as necessary.

_____H25. **Hauler** must be licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a *Hauler of Renderable Material*. For more information, visit: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/msa/render.shtm

GENERATOR – COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

_____G1. **Generator** will provide the City of Austin with a 24-hour emergency contact where a responsible party can be reached 24 hours per day, 7 days per week - to be used in the event of a grease spill or other emergency. Emergency contact information may be provided below:

Company Name:	_____
Emergency Contact Name:	_____
Emergency Contact Title:	_____
24/7 Emergency Contact Phone Number:	_____

Generator will notify City of Austin of changes to emergency contact personnel.

_____G2. **Generator** will immediately report spills or observations of any quantity of UCO entering, or likely to enter, a storm drain or waterway to the City of Austin 24-Hour Pollution Hotline at (512) 974-2550.

_____G3. If identified to have responsibility for a UCO spill, **Generator** agrees to cooperate with the City of Austin to address environmental and public safety hazards.

_____G4. Generator has day-to-day control of, and access to their assigned UCO container. Therefore, it is understood that **Generator** is the primary party responsible for maintaining the container exterior, and immediate area surrounding the container, in clean condition that does not produce a polluting discharge or contaminate stormwater runoff.

_____G5. Each individual **Generator** will retain the services of a Hauler and will be assigned their own container for UCO storage. **Generator** will not share UCO containers.

_____G6. Ultimately, **Generator** is responsible for the actions of their contracted Hauler as it relates to their UCO. **Generator** will review the service contract with their Hauler to verify a clear understanding of each party's responsibilities. If dissatisfied with Hauler services, **Generator** will hire a new Hauler.

_____G7. **Generator** will retain records of UCO disposal manifests for three years. Records should be kept on-site at the property where UCO is produced, and available for review by the City of Austin.

_____G8. **Generator** will allow only cooking oils to enter their assigned container. All other items are prohibited, including trash, petroleum products and water.

_____G9. **Generator** will secure the UCO container as necessary to prevent unauthorized use, illegal dumping, theft and vandalism.

_____G10. **Generator** will be responsible for, and clean-up, spills resulting from unauthorized use, illegal dumping, theft and vandalism.

_____G11. **Generator** will not store or dispose of UCO where it is exposed to stormwater or vandals (for example: bucket of UCO outside).

_____G12. **Generator** will dispose of UCO in their assigned container only, which must be located on the premises, or in an appropriate alley location for downtown businesses.

_____G13. **Generator** will not intentionally place any quantity of UCO on the ground, in a storm drain or waterway, or in containers intended for solid waste, recycling, compostable organics, or other materials.

_____G14. **Generator** will be cautious to not overfill UCO containers and will not attempt to place UCO into a container with insufficient remaining capacity.

_____G15. **Generator** will coordinate with Hauler to calculate the rate that used cooking oil is produced, the required on-site storage capacity, and frequency of Hauler collections. **Generator** will provide Hauler with advance notice when anticipating increased UCO production (i.e. a special event), and a special collection visit from Hauler is needed to avoid exceeding available on-site storage capacity. Special collection requests to Hauler should be made in advance, per Hauler requirements.

GENERATOR – COMPLIANCE STANDARDS (continued)

_____G16. **Generator** will verify that Hauler-provided UCO container(s) meet the following container requirements:
- Sealed to prevent leakage of contents.
- Constructed of a corrosion-resistant, durable, easily-cleanable material.
- Equipped with an attached top lid that is of durable construction and prevents entry of rainwater.
- No wheels/castors or external valves.

_____G17. If **Generator** receives notification from their Hauler that spilled or abandoned UCO was observed upon Hauler's arrival to the collection site, **Generator** will be responsible for completing appropriate clean-up actions. The Generator can request to have Hauler clean-up such spills on their behalf as added customer service, if both parties are in agreement.

_____G18. **Generator** will clean-up spills as they occur during their operations, including small drips that occur during UCO transfer to their assigned container. Spill clean-up procedures will not result in the discharge of grease, wash-water, chemical cleaners or other pollutants. All washing byproducts must be captured and properly disposed of. If pressure washing a UCO storage area is desired, first contact the Watershed Protection Department at 512-974-2550 for cleaning procedure guidance and approval.

_____G19. **Generator** will maintain an adequate supply of readily available spill clean-up supplies (i.e. dry absorbent, broom, trash bags) and restock supplies after they are used.

_____G20. **Generator** staff that transfer UCO to a storage container (grease bin) will bring an absorbent rag during transfers to aid in the immediate recovery of any small drips and spills.

_____G21. **Generator** will use a system or device for transporting UCO from the kitchen to the bin that is designed to prevent spills (i.e. Shortening Shuttle®, Frymaster®, RTI™ Oil Management)

_____G22. **Generator** will keep UCO container lids closed except during transfers and container cleaning.

_____G23. **Generator** will visually inspect their assigned UCO container(s) at least one time each work day, checking for container damage and general cleanliness. It is encouraged to assign routine container inspection and cleaning duties at the UCO storage area as staff "side-work."

_____G24. **Generator** will notify Hauler immediately when becoming aware of:
- The UCO container reaching approximately 75% capacity or more.
- A container problem that is beyond Generator ability to correct.

_____G25. **Generator** will allow the City of Austin to attach decals (approximately 8.5" x 11") to UCO containers displaying the following information:
- Contents: "Used Cooking Oil";
- Maximum container capacity (displayed in gallons);
- City of Austin 24-hour Pollution Hotline Number: 512-974-2550;
- Basic steps of UCO spill clean-up and disposal procedures;
- Generator name, address of UCO generation, and business phone number; and
- Hauler name and UCO emergency phone number.

_____G26. **Generator** will coordinate with Hauler on the appropriate placement of UCO container(s) so the container:
- Does not receive water flows (i.e. away from rain gutter and air conditioning condensate downspouts)
- Is not placed on or adjacent to a storm drain or waterway.
- Is placed outside of vehicle traffic paths.
- Is not prone to damage (by vandals, swinging doors, etc.), that could compromise container integrity.
- Is accessible to the Generator and Hauler for safe and easy transfers.

_____G27. **Generator** will provide and document periodic training to staff that routinely handle UCO. Training topics will include methods of proper UCO handling, storage, and spill clean-up. City of Austin provides supporting educational materials and a form to document training of individual staff members (attached).

GENERATOR CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I, _____ , am the _____
First and Last Name — Position / Title

of _____
Company Name and Location

and hereby certify the adoption of, and adherence to the voluntary standards that I have initialed herein.

_____ _____
Signature — Date

HAULER CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I, _____ , am the _____
First and Last Name — Position / Title

of _____
Company Name and Location

and hereby certify the adoption of, and adherence to the voluntary standards that I have initialed above.

_____ _____
Signature — Date

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

STANDARD NUMBER	DISCUSSION (For example: Reason for not adopting a specific standard; Suggestions for improving standards; Questions)

Add additional pages if necessary.

CITY OF AUSTIN – SUPPORTING EFFORTS

COA 1. **City of Austin** will continue to monitor alleyway conditions, notify Generators and Haulers when circumstances are observed that do not meet the voluntary standards, identify corrective actions and schedules necessary to maintain compliance.

COA 2. **City of Austin** is providing the attached educational materials to support Generator/Hauler staff training and compliance.

COA 3. When possible, **City of Austin** will provide Downtown Austin Generators with spill clean-up kits to support staff awareness, proper clean-up procedures of outdoor spills, and environmental compliance. (Generator responsible for restocking used supplies).

COA 4. **City of Austin** is always available for consultation on proper UCO handling, disposal, and spill clean-up procedures at the 24-Hour Pollution Hotline: 512-974-2550.

CLEAN WATER FACT SHEET

FOOD SERVICE

City of Austin - Watershed Protection Department

Austin is known for its entertaining music and good food. Many food service establishments serve Austin including eateries along famous 6th Street, "fast food" operations, quick stop convenience stores, and food processing plants. All of these establishments must be cleaned and maintained - everything from grease receptacles to cooking equipment. Most businesses understand why in terms of public health. What people may not know is these practices also potentially pollute Austin's waterways. The Watershed Protection Department is responsible for preventing pollutant discharges to the City storm drainage system and waterways as mandated by Title VI, Chapter 6-5 of the Austin City Code (Water Quality). This document provides food service establishment employees with information on maintaining the facility without polluting the environment.

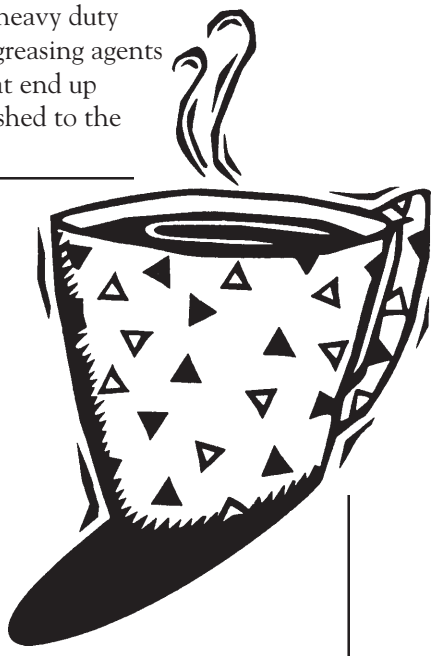
Food service establishments must maintain their facilities without polluting the environment

The Problem

Poor grease bin maintenance.
Food service establishments that fry or grill foods accumulate cooking grease requiring disposal. Outdoor bins are commonly used to store the grease. Carrying heavy buckets of food grease to the bin, then lifting and emptying the buckets, is a difficult task. Too often, the grease splashes and drips down the sides and onto the ground. Overfilling the bin creates the same mess. Allowing the spilled grease to accumulate outside the storage container is not only an illegal pollutant discharge, but a public health nuisance as well. Food grease attracts flies and rodents, is a slip hazard, and is smelly. Leaving the lid open attracts vermin and allows entrance of rainwater that can overfill the bin.

Grease discharged to a storm drain ends up in our creeks and lakes - where it coats fish gills, smothers aquatic organisms, and uses up oxygen needed by fish and aquatic life. If the grease bin is located on an unpaved surface such as soil, spill clean up can be more costly. The contaminated soil must be removed, disposed of properly and replaced. Grease spills smother landscape vegetation.

To make matters worse, cleaning agents used to remove spilled grease are discharged to the environment. Grease is typically removed by use of heavy duty degreasing agents that end up flushed to the



Wake up and smell the coffee...

Did you know that when you wash trash cans, floor mats, and kitchen equipment outside on the ground you are polluting the environment?

nearest storm drain. Some cleaning agents contain hazardous ingredients. Others contain nutrients that promote algae and weed growth in waterways. This unsightly growth depletes sunlight and oxygen needed for fish, chokes waterways, creates unpleasant drinking water taste and odors, and is costly to remove.

Overflowing grease traps.
Grilling and frying appreciable amounts of food requires the use of large outdoor grease traps. These grease traps remove food grease from dish and equipment cleaning wastewater, and diverts the wastewater to the sanitary sewer system. Traps that are not pumped regularly by a waste disposal service will become clogged and eventually overflow. Overflows are typically large in volume and have the potential to spread to vegetation, a storm drain, or a storm water pond. Grease trap overflows also clog storm water drainageways, leading to increased maintenance costs and potential flooding problems. Food grease is difficult to clean up and removing it is time consuming and costly. Other common causes of polluting discharges from these traps are overfilling, clogged sewer lines, improper maintenance of grease trap filters, and accidental spills caused by the waste hauling service during routine trap pumping.

Careless equipment cleaning.
Cleaning food service equipment (e.g. cook's line ventilation hood filters, trash cans, floor mats, mop/buckets, etc.) outside, especially near a storm drain, is illegal. It may seem convenient, but the grease and grime in the wash water accumulates on the ground and is washed into and pollutes storm sewers and waterways. Wash water typically contains food particles and grease, cleaning chemicals (many are toxic), trash, and debris. Similar to grease trap waste, wash water can create a public health nuisance and pollute the environment.

Poorly maintained dumpsters.
Unfortunately, many people use dumpsters for disposing of all kinds of waste. However, they cannot be used for food grease, liquid wastes, or hazardous materials. Such disposal not only threatens the environment, but also threatens the health and safety of sanitation workers and the general public. Spills inside the dumpster can create odor problems and attract vermin, thereby requiring removal of the dumpster for thorough cleaning at an approved facility operated by your dumpster service. In addition, liquid wastes will not be accepted by landfills.

Another problem is when trash and debris spill or blow out of the dumpster, when they are open, overfilled, or in poor condition. Unbagged trash and food refuse also promotes waste spreading and spills. This material is then easily carried to storm sewers or waterways by wind and rain. Decaying food wastes in waterways require oxygen for decomposition, resulting in strong odors, and a depleted oxygen supply for aquatic life. Trash and debris also clog waterways and decrease the waterway's recreational value. As with grease bins, cleaning the area around the dumpster is sometimes necessary, but can cause illegal discharges of cleaning agents and grime to storm sewers and waterways. In addition, placement of dumpsters on unpaved surfaces such as soil results in costly removal, disposal, and restoration of contaminated areas when leaks or spills occur.

Improper pavement cleaning.
Paved areas around a food service establishment will, over time, accumulate dirt, grime, grease and trash from pedestrians, vehicle traffic, and daily operations. If left to accumulate, these pollutants are flushed by rain, contaminating our creeks and lakes. Businesses usually strive to keep public areas clean and safe for their customers. However, during this effort, cleaning agents are used and too often illegally flushed, along with the grease and grime, to storm sewers and waterways. The cumulative effect of illegal discharges to streams and lakes from pavement cleaning all over the City would be tremendous. In addition, common automotive fluid leaks and spills like antifreeze, left on the pavement, are toxic to humans, animals, and aquatic life.

Improper vehicle cleaning.
Some food service establishments have delivery vehicles or food transport trucks requiring routine cleaning. Allowing the wash water to reach the nearest storm drain is a polluting discharge. Again, the cumulative impact on our waterways from all the equipment, pavement and vehicle washing by the community is great.

Mishandling of spills.
Accidental spills will happen. For example, food products from delivery trucks may be spilled around the loading area. Customer, employee and delivery vehicles may leak oil, fuel and antifreeze. If left on the pavement, spills are carried to storm drains, landscape, oil/grit separators and storm water ponds by rain or storm water runoff. This pollutes the environment and results in costly fines and site cleanups. In addition, if spills are flushed off site with a water hose, the untreated pollutants are carried to our creeks and lakes.

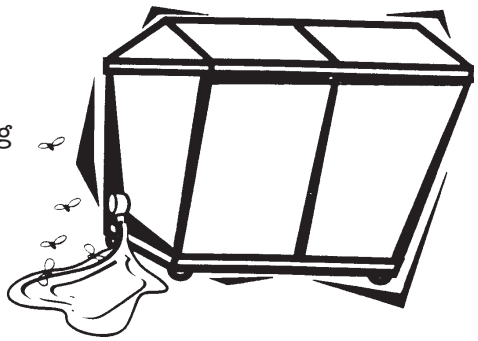
Not knowing your storm drainage structures.
Some older buildings may have floor drains connected to the storm drain system. Occasionally, a building will have a mop or hand wash sink illegally plumbed to the storm drain system. Some food service establishments have a loading dock with a drain that collects storm water and diverts it to the storm drain system or a storm water pond. Many business lots have storm drain oil/grit separators that capture and help filter oils and sediment from storm water runoff. Others have storm water ponds that help prevent flooding and filter pollutants. If business operators do not know what these structures are, though, chances are they will be misused for illegal dumping of wastes, or not maintained properly. If a pond or separator is not maintained, it will not function efficiently or effectively. Allowing chemicals to enter these structures costs in environmental remediations, fines, and maintenance of the structures.

Poor landscape practices.
Excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides to landscaped and even paved areas, especially before a rain, causes the discharge of algae-promoting or toxic chemicals to a storm drain or creek. Use of petroleum products to kill weeds significantly impacts the environment. These substances are very toxic, persist in the soil for many years, and seep into and pollute our groundwater supply. Some are cancer-causing agents. Leaves and grass clippings blown off sidewalks, driveways and parking lots are also carried to storm drains when it rains, providing excess harmful organic matter to waterways. Tree and hedge trimmings can clog drainageways and promote flooding. As these wastes decompose in a waterway, they use up oxygen needed for aquatic life to survive. If your business is located along a waterway, be extra cautious about the landscaping methods you choose.

Misuse of septic systems.
Some more remote food establishments are connected to septic systems instead of wastewater treatment plants. Knowing how these systems operate and what cannot be discharged through them will prevent the potential for costly maintenance and subsurface pollution. Septic systems use biological organisms to facilitate the breakdown of wastes typically found in domestic sewage. Chemicals that kill the biological organisms in the septic system will cause the system to fail, thereby releasing pollutants to the environment. Therefore, dumping strong cleaning chemicals (e.g. bleach) or toxic materials into a septic system will destroy the organisms in the system. Overfilling a septic system

Did you know...

The most common polluting violations found by Health Department inspectors at restaurants are dumpsters with missing drain plugs and spilled grease around grease bins.



with waste will cause the system to overflow and release partially or untreated wastewater (sewage). Sewage contaminates drinking water and promotes prolific algae growth in waterways.

Polluting construction/remodeling activities.
When businesses expand or remodel, chemicals and materials such as drywall, joint compound, paint , thinner, turpentine, wood, and insulation are typically used. Any of these materials pollute our waterways if dumped or spilled. Drywall, paint, and joint compound act like a very fine sediment, blocking light needed by plants and smothering bottom-dwelling organisms. Some paint, especially oil-based paint, contains petroleum products and hazardous metals. In addition, poorly managed materials such as wood and insulation will, at a minimum, clog the waterway, increasing the potential for flooding.

The Solution

Properly maintain grease bins.
Place grease bins in a easily cleaned paved area. Surround the area with a concrete curbing to contain spills and cleaning wastewater. The spills and wastewater are then easily removed for disposal. Carefully transport grease to and from your bin. If a grease spill occurs, clean it up immediately. Properly schedule waste service pick-ups to prevent overfilling. Should unanticipated overfilling occur, contact your disposal service for prompt removal. Monitor pumping activities and promptly clean up spills caused by waste haulers. You are responsible for any contamination on your property. Make sure grease bin lids are closed to prevent entry of vermin and overflows due to accumulated rainwater.

Schedule regular clean ups of the bin and surrounding pavement. During cleaning, capture and remove wastewater for disposal to the sanitary sewer system. A mop and bucket works well to prevent cleaning wastewater runoff. Contact Austin Water for sanitary sewer system disposal and permit requirements. Their phone number is listed at the end of this document.

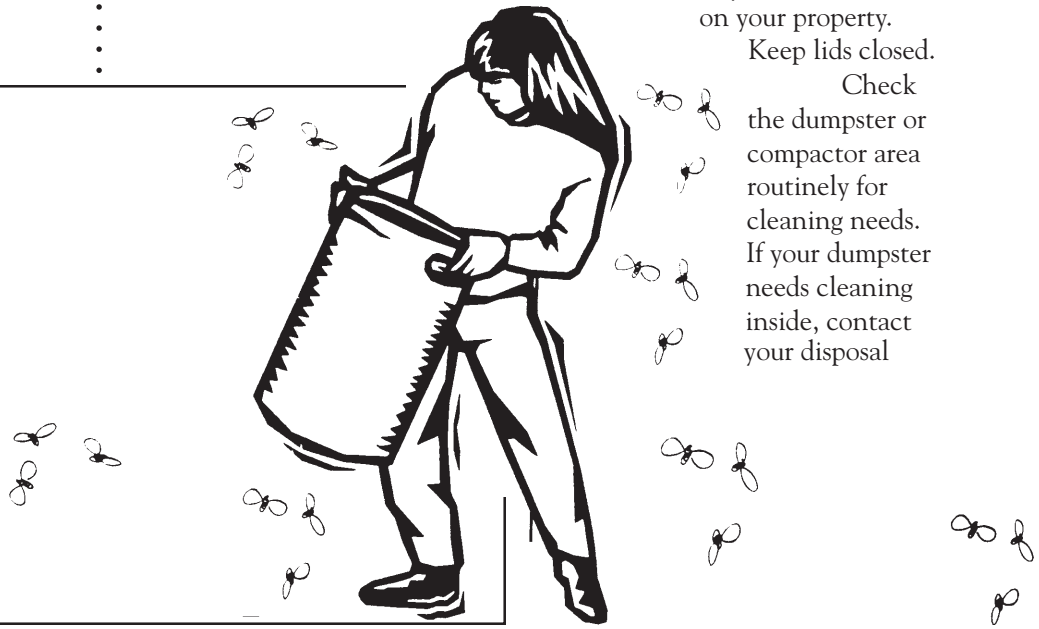
Use and maintain outdoor dumpsters and trash compactors properly.
Like grease bins, keep outdoor dumpsters and trash compactors on a concrete pad and consider installing a concrete containment area. Dumpster and compactors are only for disposal of dry, non-hazardous wastes - never food grease, liquid or hazardous wastes. The Watershed Protection Department provides a dumpster fact sheet describing detailed waste prohibitions. Dispose of garbage in the dumpster in tightly sealed bags. Carefully transport wastes to and from your dumpster or trash compactor. Clean up anything that spills. Properly schedule waste service pick-ups to prevent overfilling. Should unanticipated overfilling occur, contact your disposal service for timely removal. Monitor emptying of your dumpster and promptly clean up spills caused by waste haulers. You are responsible for any contamination on your property.

Keep lids closed.

Check the dumpster or compactor area routinely for cleaning needs. If your dumpster needs cleaning inside, contact your disposal

Did you know...

A single garbage container can produce up to **20,000** fly larvae each week if left uncovered.



Dumpsters and compactors are only for disposal of dry, non-hazardous wastes—never food grease, liquid or hazardous wastes.

service to replace the dumpster rather than trying to clean it yourself. Trash services have facilities to clean dumpsters and dispose of the wash water properly. Keep the exterior of the dumpster and compactor, and surrounding pavement as clean as possible. During cleaning, capture and remove wastewater for disposal to the sanitary sewer system. A mop and bucket works well to prevent cleaning wastewater runoff. Contact AustinWater for sanitary sewer system disposal and permit requirements. The Watershed Protection Department provides a fact sheet detailing proper dumpster use and maintenance.

Keep grease traps cleaned.
Outdoor sanitary sewer grease traps and associated sewer lines must be regularly cleaned by a disposal service to prevent overflows into your parking lot and storm drains. Schedule regular trap pumping, and monitor the trap for unanticipated overfilling.

Provide a proper equipment cleaning area.
Do not use any outdoor drains for disposal of equipment cleaning wastewater unless they are connected to the sanitary sewer system, and a permit is obtained from Austin Water. Drains without overhead cover are typically not allowed to connect to the sanitary sewer. Provide a large enough area inside your business or in an area with overhead cover to wash equipment such as trash cans, floor mats, mops, mop buckets, and hood filters. This area needs a drain that collects the wash water and diverts it to the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary drain connection must be approved by Austin Water.

Collect and dispose of wastes during pavement cleaning.
Check your lot daily for cleaning needs. Pick up trash and sweep daily to remove dirt and sediment. Absorb any puddles such as automotive fluids using kitty litter, mop & bucket, wet vacuum or similar equipment. Pre-clean heavy oil and grease stains, and slick spots using a small mixture of water and mild, powdered detergent. Brush the mixture into the stain. Let stand until dry and sweep up for disposal in the trash. A cold water rinse might be all that is needed after pre-cleaning.

However, if you have larger areas that require cleaning, the wash water discharge must not drain to a storm drain, oil/grit separator, the landscape or a storm water pond. Instead, pavement cleaning is legal if the wastewater is collected for proper disposal with a mop & bucket or scrubbing machine that vacuums up the water and grime as it cleans.

The wastewater can be disposed of via indoor sanitary sewer drains, with prior approval from Austin Water. Do not dump mop water in outside storm drains. The Watershed Protection Department can provide a list of sorbent material suppliers as well as a fact sheet describing approved pavement,

Provide an area with overhead cover and a sanitary sewer drain to wash equipment such as trash cans, floor mats, mops, mop buckets and hook filters.

vehicle and equipment cleaning methods. See the phone numbers provided at the end of this document.

Clean food service vehicles at an approved location.
Washing vehicles must be done at approved facilities with drains under overhead cover and connected to a wastewater treatment plant or system. Car wash businesses typically have approved facilities that are permitted by Austin Water. No wash water is allowed to discharge to the environment.

Clean spills as they happen.
If a spill occurs, clean it up immediately with sorbent material or a mop and bucket - before it reaches a storm drain and spreads to a creek or lake. Never leave spills unattended or flush them with water. If necessary, block drains with sorbent material to keep the spill out. Spills on soil should be excavated for proper disposal. Small spills can be dug up, sealed in garbage bags and placed in the trash. Contact the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department for soil cleanup instructions resulting from larger spills.

Keep spill cleanup and containment materials handy for use when needed. Have a written spill contingency plan posted at your site giving information on what to do in the event of a release. Federal and State law requires Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for each chemical used at your facility - they must be readily available if a chemical spill occurs. The chemical manufacturer should supply these documents free of charge. The manufacturer's phone number is sometimes found on the product label.

Use care during landscaping.
Use Integrated Pest Management which emphasizes prevention and natural pest control methods instead of chemicals. For example, weeds can be controlled by the use of ground cover plants and mulch. Ashes, diatomaceous earth, limestone and other natural materials applied to the landscape may act as an irritant and repel bugs. Landscape with native or adaptive plants that require less water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Use compost or manure as natural fertilizers. If used, chemical fertilizers and pesticides should be applied according to directions on the label. Use only the amount necessary to do the job. Never apply toxic pesticides near water bodies, water wells and wildlife habitats. Check the weather before applying lawn chemicals to avoid application just before it rains or when it is windy.

Design a landscape that limits the volume or decreases the speed of storm water runoff and irrigation water. This lowers the chances of erosion and washing of pollutants into storm drains.

Spill cleanup tips

- Clean up spills immediately with proper tools
- Never leave spills unattended or flush with water.
- Keep spill cleanup and containment materials handy
- Develop a spill contingency plan and post it.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Sweep grass and leaves out of the street to keep them out of storm drains and waterways. Collect tree and hedge trimmings for disposal through your waste disposal service. The Watershed Protection Department provides a fact sheet with more details regarding the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides as well as proper landscape maintenance.

Know your drainage.
Nothing but clean rain water may enter our storm drainage system according to Federal law. Keep all wastes/wastewater and spilled products from entering drains, oil/grit separators and storm water ponds. Educate employees on the function of these structures and what to do to prevent their misuse. The Watershed Protection Department provides a fact sheet with instructions on proper use and maintenance of separators and ponds. If you do not know to which system (storm drain or sanitary sewer system) the drains connect, contact the Watershed Protection Department or a licensed plumber for a dye trace and/or other verification method. If you find that a mop sink or other plumbing fixture is improperly connected, have it fixed immediately to prevent additional contamination. Post signs at outside storm drains to prevent their misuse. The Watershed Protection Department can provide a free kit to mark your storm drains.

Keep all wastes/wastewater and spilled products from entering drains, oil/grit separators and storm water ponds.

Proper use of septic systems.
Keep septic systems regularly maintained to prevent failure. If you are concerned about chemicals harming your septic system, contact the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department for specifics. Their phone number is at the end of this document.

Proper construction/remodeling activities.
Use plastic sheeting or tarpaulins during painting activities to capture drips and spills. Wash water-based paint equipment at a sink that is plumbed to the sanitary sewer system. All containers of chemicals should be placed under protective cover and kept closed to prevent spills. Construction trash and debris should be picked up regularly and disposed of through your dumpster service. If you have reusable leftover chemicals, contact the City's Zero Waste Business Services for disposal alternatives. Non-reusable oil-based paint and other toxic chemicals must be disposed of through an approved waste disposal service. The Watershed Protection Department can provide disposal service lists for various waste types.

Reduce , reuse, recycle.
Reducing the amount of waste generated saves on disposal costs. The best way to do this is buy only what you need. Then, use up all you bought to prevent waste generation.

Many waste materials can be reused or recycled. Reuse landscape debris such as leaves, grass clippings, and small shrub trimmings by composting. When mowing the grass, leave the grass clippings on the lawn. Used food grease can be stored in a leak-proof container for recycling through an approved hauler. Special dumpsters to recycle cardboard are available through many of the local waste disposal services. Donate excess construction materials to a non-profit organization such as Habitat for Humanity. Other wastes such as metal and plastic product containers can be recycled either through local waste haulers or non-profit organizations. The City's Zero Waste Business Services can help with alternative material handling and waste exchange options. Their phone number is provided at the end of this document.

Train employees.
Prevention is the key to eliminating pollution. The best pollution prevention method is training your employees on how to do their job without creating polluting discharges. While it takes time to train employees, it is actually time well spent and invested in your business to prevent clean ups, site restorations, regulatory fines, and injuries.

The Cost

Businesses have found that it costs time and money to implement water pollution prevention measures. However, the expense to clean-up spills and restore property after they occur is much greater. Small, seemingly insignificant leaks and spills become large contamination problems if steps are not taken for containment, clean up, and prevention. Many spills are extremely expensive to clean up and dispose of properly. Spills that are not mitigated can cause soil or groundwa-

ter contamination which could impact future sale or transfer of property until the responsible party mitigates the damage.

Clean up costs and real estate depreciation are not the only possible pollution costs. Fines from City, State or Federal agencies add thousands of dollars to the overall cost of a polluting discharge. In addition to imposing fines, regulatory agencies can require businesses to undergo detailed compliance audits to implement long-term water monitoring programs, or require the installation of expensive pollution prevention equipment and programs.

For more information:

Pollution prevention for food service establishments; spill response, list of recycling and disposal services, sorbent material suppliers; fact sheets on dumpsters, proper cleaning methods, landscape maintenance, oil/grit separators and storm water ponds
City of Austin Watershed Protection Department
Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
(512) 974-2550

Food establishment permitting and inspection, restaurant grease receptacle requirements, liquid waste hauler licensing, public health nuisances, septic system regulations
Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department
(512) 972-5000

Sanitary sewer discharges
Austin Water
Special Services Division
(512) 972-1060

Small business waste disposal information
Austin Resource Recovery
Zero Waste Business Services
(512) 974-9727

Waste storage/disposal requirements, recycling/reuse information
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 11 Office
(512) 339-2929

Clean Water Fact Sheet

Spill Handling

City of Austin - Watershed Protection Department

Spills, large and small, can have serious consequences if not handled properly. They can significantly impact property, public safety, and the environment, especially if they involve hazardous substances. Also, if not quickly cleaned up, they can reach storm drains leading to Austin's waterways.

The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department is responsible for preventing polluting discharges to the City's storm drain system or waterways as mandated by Title VI, Chapter 6-5 (Water Quality) of the City Code. This fact sheet provides information on properly handling spills to prevent pollution.

Spills flushed into storm drains end up in our creeks and lakes.

The Problem

Not cleaning up spills.
Spills left on the ground spread to storm drains or are flushed by rain to waterways or soil. Also, untended spills inside a shop can spread to an inside drain connected to the storm drain system. Materials discharged to storm sewers end up in our creeks and lakes without pretreatment. Anything other than clean, cold water is an illegal discharge. Small, seemingly insignificant spills that are not cleaned up daily create a cumulative effect with significant impact on the environment.

Not knowing what to do when spills occur.
Unfortunately, many workers find themselves in the uncomfortable and unsafe position of not knowing how to conduct a spill cleanup. Uninformed employees often get injured or do something to make the situation worse.

Not having spill clean up material readily available.
A spill cannot be contained if the appropriate amount or type of absorbent is not available at the work site. Without containment, the spill contaminates a larger area, resulting in a more costly cleanup and an increased danger to the public and the environment.

Flushing spills to storm drains, storm water ponds, vegetation or soil.
Some people choose to flush away spills with water. However, this spreads the contamination to vegetation, soil, waterways, and storm water ponds. The result is a significant increase in costs for cleanup, site restoration, and fines—and a greater impact on public health and the environment.

Murphy's Law #13:

"Accidents will happen, and usually at the worst possible time." Despite efforts to prevent such episodes, at some time you will probably need to clean up a spill of something that could potentially become a serious water pollutant. Do you know exactly what to do and who to call to protect yourselves, the public, and the environment?

Improper storage of contaminated material.
Improper storage practices may result in polluting discharges. Sometimes contaminated materials from spill cleanups require temporary storage while disposal arrangements are made. Open or uncovered containers, exposed to rainfall fill up with water and overflow the polluted water onto the ground. Containers in poor condition can leak. Unlabeled containers may be misused and neglected. Unsecured containers are subject to vandalism and traffic accidents, increasing the chance for a release. Contaminated soils from excavations due to spills can erode during rain storms while stockpiled outside.

Improper disposal of contaminated material.
Spills can contaminate many surfaces such as soil, vegetation, sludge inside an oil/grit separator, and accumulated sediment in a drain. All these impacted materials need cleanup and disposal. Even the absorbent material (e.g. kitty litter) used to clean impacted surfaces needs disposal.

Contaminated materials from hazardous chemical spills cannot be dumped in the trash, since hazardous chemicals (1) can leach from landfills and contaminate groundwater, (2) can leak from dumpsters seams and drain holes and spread, and (3) can injure sanitation workers during dumpster emptying. Dumping contaminated materials on the ground, in a waterway, storm water pond, or storm drain is illegal and only moves the contamination from one area to another. Stiff fines and criminal penalties are levied for incidents involving improper waste disposal, especially those adversely affecting human health and the environment.

Using microbes incorrectly.
Microbes are commonly used for cleaning spills, since these specialized bacteria and fungi "eat" petroleum and break it down to non-toxic compounds. Microbes, like other living organisms, need water, food, and air to survive. So, microbes applied to hot pavement without water will die. Likewise, applying microbes to contaminated soil without water and without tilling the soil to ensure adequate aeration results in microbial death.

Many microbial cleaning agents contain detergents which promote efficient cleaning by dissolving oil and grime off dirty surfaces. This concentrates pollutants in the wash water. Microbial cleaning agents may also contain nutrients like nitrogen to stimulate microbial growth and reproduction. But, if microbial cleaning agents are flushed by spill cleaning—or if rain water flushes cleaning agents off a dirty surface—the microbes may not find their intended food source. As a result, the dissolved spill pollutants such as oil and grease in the wash water will impact receiving waterways, and nutrients will overstimulate algae growth. Also, applying microbes over large paved areas increases the likelihood they will be flushed to storm sewers and waterways.

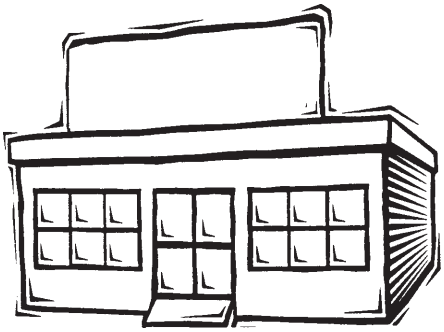
The Solution

Prevent spills BEFORE they happen.
Prevent spills, as much as possible, through simple planning of daily operations. Store all chemicals safely:

- Protect them from the weather—so contaminants are not in contact with rainfall or storm water.
- Store them in secured areas—so vandalism and traffic related damage does not occur.
- Store in containers that are in good condition—to eliminate leaks.
- Check containers regularly—for leaks.

Did you know...

Flushing one quart of oil into Austin's creeks and lakes contaminates 250,000 gallons of water.



Prevent spills to the environment by working inside your shop.

- Use secondary containment (e.g. concrete curbing) around storage areas—to prevent spills from spreading. The Austin Fire Department (AFD) requires secondary containment for certain quantities of stored materials. For more information, contact AFD by calling the phone number provided at the end of this fact sheet.

In addition, capture leaks and spills—with drip pans or spill pallets during vehicle/equipment maintenance (e.g. fluid changes). Inspect vehicles/equipment for leaks—repair them promptly. Most importantly, prevent discharges to the environment by working inside your shop.

Develop and post a spill contingency plan.
Post a site-specific spill contingency plan at your business providing step-by-step instructions in the event of a release. The spill plan should include the after-hours telephone numbers for all emergency response personnel. Also, include the name, business address, and phone number of at least one clean up contractor capable of handling and disposing of spilled material and contaminated media. Post emergency contact numbers by your business phone.

Keep Safety Data Sheets (SDS) readily available for each chemical used or stored at the facility. An SDS contains information that enables persons responsible for handling, using or encountering chemicals to estimate the likely harm, potential hazards and risks that might arise in emergency situations involving those chemicals. Obtain an SDS free of charge by calling the manufacturer's phone number from the label on the chemical container. Contact the Watershed Protection Department for more information on how to develop a spill contingency plan. A phone number is provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Keep spill containment and clean up materials readily available.
Keep appropriate materials on hand for the type and quantities of chemicals used or stored at your facility. Consider positioning "spill kits" in selected areas of your business. These kits make spill cleanup and personal protection materials readily available.

A variety of synthetic and natural materials are available to pick up liquid spills. Contact an emergency response equipment supplier to obtain information on types and applications of absorbent materials. The Watershed Protection Department provides a list of some local suppliers of various materials. Some common types of cleanup materials are:

- Absorbent pads are usually made of thin sheets of cloth-like material with a large surface area designed to float on water and absorb petroleum products. Although these pads are expensive and not biodegradable, they are often easy to apply, reuse, and less expensive overall for disposal.
- Absorbent pillows are a thicker version of the absorbent pad with even greater absorbing capacity.
- Absorbent booms are long tubes of absorbent. Booms are made of the same synthetic material as pads and pillows, but are typically utilized on larger petroleum spills because of their ability to contain or "corral" spills.
- Clay absorbent, also known as kitty litter, is a natural, biodegradable absorbent that has been dried and crumbled to increase its surface area and absorbing capacity. Clay absorbent is most effective at recovering petroleum or other liquid spills on pavement.
- Sawdust and peat moss are natural absorbents that are similar in function to clay, readily available, inexpensive and biodegradable. They are

most effective when used on dry surfaces such as pavement. However, it may be difficult to apply them in windy conditions or retrieve them once they have absorbed a spill.

- Rags are similar to clay in function. Shop rags made of cotton or natural fibers can be laundered and dried by a commercial service, which can save on disposal costs over time. Rags, generally, are not appropriate for the clean up of hazardous materials.
- Mop and bucket removal is most effective when used on liquid spills on dry surfaces. Depending on the nature of the liquid being recovered, mops may be reused, saving on disposal costs. Remember if you use water to clean the surface, you may have a problem disposing of the contaminated water.

Isolate the spill area.
Keep unauthorized individuals away from the spill. Keep vehicles and equipment from tracking through the spill and spreading the contamination. Isolate the area by using items like cones, safety tape, and temporary warning or detour signs.

Contain the spill.
Spills should be contained immediately to prevent costly cleanups, especially before they reach a storm drain and spread to a creek or lake. Do not put yourself or others in danger. Before cleanup begins, evaluate what materials have spilled, make a thorough assessment of risk, and determine how to contain the spill safely. When safe containment is possible, immediately stop the spread of liquids using absorbent materials. Always wear appropriate safety equipment such as gloves, coveralls, goggles, and respirators. Follow instructions on the SDS for safe containment of both liquid and dry materials. Immediately block off nearby drains (sanitary sewer or storm drain). It is much more costly to decontaminate the inside of a storm drain pipe and/or restore a contaminated creek than it is to purchase materials to contain the spill.

Notify the appropriate agencies.
Immediately call 911 if there is a threat to human health and safety. Report spills that either have entered or threaten to enter storm sewers or waterways to the Watershed Protection Department at 512-974-2550 (24-Hour Pollution Hotline). In addition, report all spills that have contaminated soil. Never leave spills unattended; designate someone to make any necessary phone calls. You may be required to report spills to a variety of other agencies, depending upon the materials involved at your facility. The Watershed Protection Department provides a list of environmental emergency response agencies and their phone numbers. Whether or not a spill needs to be reported usually depends on the type and amount of the spilled material. Find out each agency's notification and spill reporting quantity requirements.

Clean spills properly.
Sweep up dry, non-hazardous material spills—place in proper containers for disposal. Absorb liquid, non-hazardous material spills with absorbent material—

Did you know...

In Alaska, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spilled 11.4 million gallons of oil. Every year, Americans pour or spill over 400 million gallons of used motor oil onto into storm drains or landfills where it leaks into our groundwater supply. That's the equivalent of **35 Exxon Valdez oil spills.**

sweep up for proper disposal. Surfaces contaminated by hazardous chemicals or unknown substances should be cleaned up by experienced, qualified individuals to protect the health and safety of you and the general public. Follow the safe handling instructions provided on the SDS.

There are many emergency response materials available making clean up of even toxic and hazardous materials fairly simple. Always use the right material for the job. Clean floating pollutants such as petroleum from puddles or from inside storm drains and oil/grit separators using absorbent materials such as pads and pillows. If you need to use a detergent or chemical cleaning agent, apply a small amount of the cleaner to the soiled surface and use absorbents to pick up the wash water. Excavate any contaminated soils as quickly as possible. Contact the Watershed Protection Department for soil cleanup instructions.

Use microbes responsibly.

Petroleum consuming microbes are very useful in controlled cleanup situations such as oily soil remediations, contained parts cleaning, and waste water treatment. If you choose to use microbes for cleaning spills, apply them according to the manufacturer's directions. Provide ample food, water, and oxygen.

When cleaning spills on pavement, apply the microbes with a minimal amount of water so that runoff does not occur. Use microbes to clean small oily spills only—do not use them over large areas such as parking lots. Never flush microbes to a storm drain or waterway. After ample application time, pick up the microbes for reuse or disposal by using absorbent material. Never leave microbes on paved areas—rain will wash them to a storm drain or waterway.

When using microbes for cleaning spills on soil, protect the treated area from rain so microbes will not wash away. Cover the spill area with tarpaulins or plastic sheeting and construct a berm around the perimeter of the spill. Do not use microbes for lead contaminated soil—microbes cannot break down lead.

Before using microbes for cleaning spills, obtain approval from the Watershed Protection Department. Approval for microbe use is granted on a case-by-case basis. A phone number is provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Store contaminated materials properly.

Keep storage containers under protective cover and securely closed, away from traffic and possible acts of vandalism. Use containers in good condition and label them properly. These storage units must not leak, overflow, or show any signs of failure or contents incompatibility. Designate storage areas away from storm drains or storm water ponds.

Store outside stockpiles of soil on and covered by impermeable plastic sheeting or tarpaulins. AFD may require secondary containment as well as other protective methods for certain quantities of materials. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has container labeling rules and accumulation time limits for certain waste materials. For more details, contact AFD and TCEQ at the phone numbers provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Never leave spills unattended; designate someone to make any necessary phone calls in the event of a spill.

Dispose of contaminated materials properly.

Adequately identify the waste to determine appropriate disposal. TCEQ regulates waste disposal within the state of Texas. Contact the TCEQ for assistance with determining if the waste is hazardous. Typically, materials used to clean up small automotive fluid spills such as motor oil, fuel or diesel can be dried, sealed in garbage bags and disposed of in the trash. Up to 220 lbs. of dried petroleum contaminated absorbent can be placed in the trash each month by a business. Dry the absorbent in a safe, secure area protected from weather. Otherwise, collect spill waste and dispose of it through an approved service. The Watershed Protection Department provides lists

of disposal services for various waste types.

Seek services that recycle or reuse your waste to avoid liabilities involved in land disposal via a landfill. If recycling or reuse is not possible, seek services that reduce the amount of waste through technologies such as incineration.

Know your drainage.
Many businesses in Austin have oil/grit separators, storm water ponds, and even inside drains that connect to the storm drain system. Some business operators don't know the purpose of these structures, especially if the structures already existed before they purchased or leased the property. Some people incorrectly assume that they are receptacles for waste disposal. If you have any of these drainage structures at your facility, teach all workers how they should be used and maintained. The Watershed Protection Department provides a fact sheet explaining proper use and maintenance of separators and ponds. Preventing spilled materials from entering these structures prevents costly environmental cleanups, fines, and maintenance. If you are unsure which system your drains connect to (storm drain or sanitary sewer), contact the Watershed Protection Department or a licensed plumber for a dye trace and/or other verification method.

Train employees.
Prevention is the key to eliminating pollution. The best prevention method is training individuals who work in areas where spills can occur. Train employees regarding the location and use of SDS's, and the use of personal protection equipment to prevent injury. Designate individuals to carry out each step in a spill incident, from the person making phone notifications to those securing and cleaning up the spill area. Make sure these individuals are properly trained in recognizing and assessing a spill to prevent impact to humans and the environment. There are specialized companies available to provide this kind of training. Training saves time and money in clean ups, fines, site restorations, and injuries.

Keep workers trained in recognizing and assessing a spill to protect the environment and public safety.

The Bottom Line

Businesses have found that it costs time and money to implement water pollution prevention measures. However, the expense to clean up spills and restore property is much greater. Small, seemingly insignificant leaks and spills can become large contamination problems over time if steps are not taken for containment, clean up, and prevention. Clean up and disposal after spills is often extremely expensive. Unless handled properly, spills cause soil or groundwater contamination which could impact future sale or transfer of property.

Cleanup costs and real estate depreciation are not the only possible pollution costs. Treatment of injuries and time lost from work are also substantial costs. Fines from City, State or Federal agencies add thousands of dollars to the overall cost of a polluting discharge. In addition to fines, regulatory agencies can require businesses to undergo detailed compliance audits, implement long-term water monitoring programs, or require the installation of expensive pollution prevention equipment and programs.

For more information:

Regulation of polluting discharges to storm sewers and waterways, spill reporting, lists of chemical disposal and recycling services, storm drainage identification, soil cleanup advise, absorbent material information
City of Austin Watershed Protection Department
Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
(512) 974-2550

Spills involving underground storage tank systems
City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department
Underground Storage Tank Program
(512) 974-2715

Secondary containment requirements, protection of public health and safety
Austin Fire Department
Hazardous Materials Prevention Division
(512) 974-0182

Hazardous waste rules, spill reporting
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 11 Office
(512) 339-2929

Emergency Numbers
Austin Fire Department (emergencies only)
911

City of Austin Environmental Hotline (24 hour)
(512) 974-2550

TCEQ Emergency Response Center (24 hour)
1-800-832-8224

CHEMTREC Chemical Spill Hotline (24 hour)
1-800-424-9300

CLEAN WATER FACT SHEET

DUMPSTERS

City of Austin - Watershed Protection Department

The purpose of the common dumpster is to contain waste for proper disposal. Because these wastes are pollutants, dumpster misuse and improper maintenance results in illegal polluting discharges to the environment. Misuse can create a public health nuisance as well. The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department is responsible for preventing polluting discharges to the City storm drain system and waterways as mandated by Title VI, Chapter 6-5 (Water Quality) of City Code. The Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department has responsibility for investigating complaints regarding solid waste disposal and ensuring compliance with health codes. This document provides tips on using and maintaining dumpsters without polluting the environment.

Improper use of your commercial dumpster is illegal

The Problem

Improper disposal of wastes into the dumpster.

Dumpsters are only for the temporary storage and sanitary containment of non-hazardous municipal solid wastes (dry solids) - until the wastes are removed by a municipal or private collection service for transport to a landfill. According to Federal and State law, these dumpsters must not be used to dispose of:

- municipal or industrial hazardous waste (materials that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, strong sensitizers or irritants, or that may pose a present or potential danger to human health or the environment);
- oil or grease (e.g. from restaurants, automotive repair facilities);
- infectious or pathological wastes (e.g. from health care facilities, veterinary hospitals, laboratories);
- septic tank waste;
- oil and grit separator wastes (e.g. from car washes, service stations);
- slaughterhouse wastes;
- dead animals;
- pesticide containers (e.g. insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, or rodenticide);
- discarded materials containing asbestos;
- drugs, contaminated foods, or drink products other than those contained in normal household waste;
- municipal wastewater treatment plant sludges;
- wastes from air pollution control facilities;
- tanks, drums, or other containers used for storage or shipping of any listed hazardous waste;
- used automotive oil filters;
- large automotive parts and scrap (e.g. torque converters, transmissions, tires, etc.); and,
- radioactive wastes.
- motor oil or other automotive fluid containers that are not well drained of their contents;

Did you know...

4% of motor oil is left in each bottle when thrown in the trash.

There are nearly 3.43 billion quart bottles sold in the U.S. every year. As a result, over 137 million quarts of otherwise usable motor oil is landfilled yearly.

That's 3 1/2 Exxon Valdez oil spills, every year! Drain containers before placing them in the dumpster. Recycle drained oil.

Such disposal will contaminate the landfill and threaten the groundwater, as well as endanger the safety of the sanitation workers emptying the dumpsters, and the general public.

Liquid, semi-liquid or loose items placed in the dumpster.
Liquid materials cannot be accepted by municipal landfills. In addition, these materials leak through the seams of the dumpster, spill onto the ground during emptying, or discharge along with collected rainwater when the drain plug is removed - often requiring extensive cleanup. Anything other than clean, clear water is an illegal discharge to the environment according to City, State, and Federal regulations. Items such as loose food refuse and food grease placed in the dumpster can promote fly breeding and create odor problems, a public health nuisance according to the local health department. Loose trash placed in the dumpster can be strewn by the wind during emptying or while the lid is open.

Overfilled dumpsters.
Overfilled dumpsters allow waste to spill onto the ground. Trash and debris exposed to wind or storm water end up in a storm drain or a waterway. Trash and debris clogs waterways, increasing the potential for local flooding. Waste material also impacts recreational value of waterways and creates an aesthetic nuisance.

Dumpsters in poor condition.
Dumpsters in poor condition attract and harbor flies and rodents. Rainwater entering the dumpster becomes contaminated and cannot be discharged to the environment.

Improper cleaning of the dumpster and surrounding area.
As a receptacle for garbage, dumpsters are subject to buildup of dirt and grime. Therefore, chemical cleaning agents are often used to clean them. Flushing cleaning agents and the grime to a storm drain or waterway is an illegal discharge. Some cleaning agents contain hazardous ingredients toxic to aquatic life. Some contain phosphorus, a nutrient promoting the growth of algae. Once algae blooms accumulate and decay, oxygen needed by aquatic life is depleted. Cleaning agents carry large quantities of dirt, grime, oil and grease into storm drains and waterways. These pollutants are toxic to aquatic life.

Unsecured dumpster lids.
Dumpster lids left open allow entrance of vermin. Rainwater also accumulates in them, resulting in stagnant odors and mosquito and fly breeding. Unsecured dumpsters are targets for vandalism, leaving a mess to clean up.

Improper placement of the dumpster.
Placement of a dumpster on a grassy area does not allow for proper cleaning of the surrounding area, should an accidental waste spill occur. This subjects the owner to costly cleanup and replacement of contaminated soil. Placement next to a storm drain significantly increases the potential for polluting materials, from accidental spills and dumpster cleaning, to illegally discharge to the storm drain system and waterways.

Not cleaning up accidental spills around the dumpster.
Spills to the ground outside the dumpster occur from overfilling, improper disposal of liquid items in or around it, or from abandoned chemicals left next to it. Spills left on the ground spread, threatening humans, animals and the environment.

Did you know...

An estimated 30 million oil filters are dumped in Texas landfills each year.

Oil stays in the environment a long time.

It may take decades to biodegrade.

Collect and recycle used oil filters.

The Solution

Recycle, reuse and dispose of wastes properly.
Strict State rules exist for storage and disposal of hazardous waste generated from commercial and

industrial operations. Store hazardous waste such as medical waste separately, in an approved tamper-proof, compatible container for disposal by a certified special waste service. Store used food grease in a leak-proof container for recycling through a commercial grease hauler. Obtain special large capacity dumpsters for separate containment of construction or demolition wastes. Compost food (no meat or dairy products) and landscape waste.

Many waste materials can be reused or recycled.
Recycling companies will schedule pickups of recyclable waste from businesses. Resource exchange networks exist, facilitating the sale of by-products and surplus materials for reuse. Contact the City's Zero Waste Business Services for other disposal alternatives and a non-regulatory free audit of your business. They can allow some small business recyclables and hazardous chemicals for disposal through the City's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Their phone number is listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Place only dry, solid municipal waste in the dumpster in sealed garbage bags.
Tie garbage bags shut to ensure waste is properly secured. Release rainwater from dumpsters only if the collected water is not contaminated from loose items. Collect and recycle liquid waste such as used motor oil and grease. Sufficiently drain contents of oil and other automotive fluid containers before placing them in the dumpster.

Ensure regular waste disposal service pick-ups.
Plan scheduled waste service pick-ups so the dumpster will not be overfilled. Should unanticipated overfilling occur, contact your disposal service for an extra pick-up.

Keep dumpster in good condition.
The local health department requires dumpsters be maintained in good repair. Dumpsters must be durable, easily cleanable, insect and rodent-resistant, and must not leak. Routinely check the dumpster for missing drain plugs, bent lids, and open seams. Call your dumpster provider for replacement parts or to replace the entire dumpster, if needed.

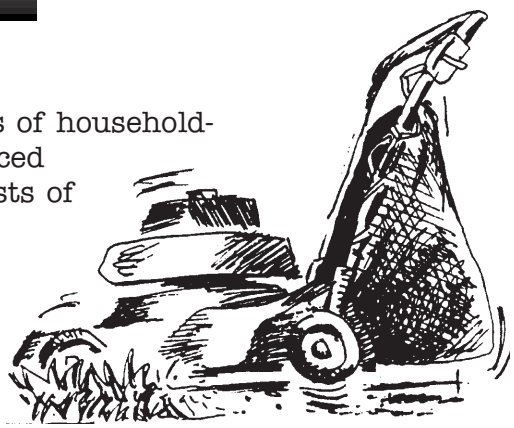
Properly clean the dumpster and surrounding area.
The local health department requires dumpsters be kept clean to prevent a public health nuisance. Pick up any loose trash on the ground. Spot clean heavy stains and slick spots around the dumpster with a paste consisting of clay sorbent (e.g. kitty litter), water and soap. Brush the mixture into the stain, let stand until dry, and sweep up for disposal in the dumpster. Then, the remaining area can be cleaned using plain cold water under pressure or by collection of the wastewater (e.g. mop and bucket) for disposal in a sanitary sewer drain (e.g. mop sink). The Watershed Protection Department provides a list of sorbent material suppliers, as well as a handout describing approved pavement and equipment cleaning methods.

Keep dumpster secured.
Keep dumpster lids closed. If rainwater has collected in the bottom, first check that the water is not contaminated (e.g. discolored, smelly) prior to removing the dumpster plug to release the water. Make sure to put the plug back in place. If the water becomes contaminated, contact the Watershed Protection Department for disposal instructions. Consider locking the dumpster if vandalism is a problem.

Did you know...

20% of nine million tons of household-generated wasted produced annually in Texas consists of leaves, grass and tree trimmings.

Composting eliminates 56 million dollars a year in landfill costs.



Properly place your dumpster.

The local health department requires dumpsters be kept on a smooth surface of non-absorbent material such as concrete or asphalt. Place the dumpster away from storm drains or vegetated areas.

Plan for spills.

Monitor what kind of wastes are placed in the dumpster. Maintain a written plan for employees to follow in the event of an accidental spill or leak. If the spilled material is hazardous, immediately call 911 for assistance. Be aware that hazardous material spills in the dumpster can cause lethal fumes.

Be prepared ahead of time with equipment necessary to clean non-hazardous material spills. Liquid spills can be stopped from spreading or entering a storm drain by containing with sorbent material such as sand or kitty litter. Spills or leaks inside the dumpster should be cleaned up as soon as possible to prevent possible leakage onto the ground and to prevent exposure to the sanitation workers. Spills or leaks onto the ground must also be cleaned up immediately, to prevent a sanitary nuisance and impact to public health and the environment. Usually, non-hazardous material spills can be cleaned using the same cleaning methods for routine cleaning of the dumpster area.

Use non-toxic alternatives.

Using non-hazardous and non-toxic chemicals at your business helps prevent contaminated containers from ending up in the landfill after they are thrown in the trash.

Train dumpster users.

Prevention is the key to eliminating pollution. The best pollution prevention method is training employees and other dumpster users on how to properly use and maintain the dumpster and surrounding area. Schedule routine checks of the area to prevent pollution problems. While it takes time to train, it is actually time well spent and invested in your business to prevent clean ups, site restorations, regulatory fines, and injuries.

The Bottom Line

It can be very costly to clean-up spills or leaks that result from improper disposal of wastes or inadequate maintenance of the dumpster area. This is especially true if the spilled material is hazardous and poses a significant public health or environmental threat. Significant costs are associated with injured sanitation workers and cleanup of contaminated surfaces. Fines and criminal penalties given to persons contributing to illegal discharges or disposal practices are costly. These costs far outweigh the cost of using and maintaining the dumpster properly.

For more information:

Regulation of polluting discharges
City of Austin Watershed Protection Department
Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section
(512) 974-2550

Small business waste disposal information, Waste Exchange Program
Austin Rescource Recovery
Zero Waste Business Services
(512) 974-9727

Restaurant grease receptacle requirements, liquid waste hauler licensing, public health nuisance complaint response
Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department
(512) 972-5000

Waste storage/disposal requirements, alternatives to hazardous household chemicals, recycling/reuse information
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 11 Office
(512) 339-2929

Contact your local licensed solid waste hauler for information regarding specific dumpster sizes available, services provided, and what kinds of wastes the landfill will accept. The Watershed Protection Department provides a list of landfills in the Austin area.

Austin guide to...
GREASE BINS

In order to maintain a safe, healthy and non-polluting grease bin, here are a few tips that will help you avoid fines and cleanup expenses. While grease bin services provide and empty the bins, the business is also responsible for any violations.

- **Choose a bin that is:**
  - Approved
  - Easily cleanable
  - In good condition
- **Locate it:**
  - On a cleanable surface such as a concrete pad
  - Away from a storm drain
- **Keep bin lid:**
  - Closed between use
  - Locked
- **Secure bin** (with a cable or other device to prevent vandalism)
- **Make sure employees:**
  - Take their time filling bin to avoid drips and spills
  - Do not overfill bin
  - Are trained on best grease handling, care and cleanup methods
- **Clean up any spills and drips as they occur:**
  - Use absorbent material which should always be available onsite
  - Do not flush with soap and water which could then travel to waterways through storm drains

WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
512-974-2550
24-HOUR HO LI
TO REPORT POLLUTION PROBLEMS
CITY OF AUSTIN

- **Hire an approved service provider**
- **Ensure that service provider:**
  - Changes out bin if in poor condition or leaking
  - Provides regular grease pickups (check periodically that pumping is occurring)
  - Disposes of grease at an approved facility
  - Provides you with paperwork on hauling and disposal for your records
- **Report large spills to the City's 24-Hour Pollution Hotline**

City of Austin
WATERSHED PROTECTION
512-974-2550

FOOD SERVICE
Environmental Assessment

Austin guide to...
PRESSURE WASHING

Pressure washing is a useful, often necessary, cleaning practice for removing grime, dirt, oil and grease off of concrete or other solid surfaces. However, if the resulting water is polluted, it must be disposed of properly to avoid harming our waterways and aquatic life. Solid objects that are washed to the storm drain such as trash and debris, can also clog drains and cause flooding. Remember, you are responsible for polluting discharges you create. To avoid costly fines:

Pre-Clean Areas -- Sweep, Bag and Toss in the Garbage Can/Dumpster:

- Trash, dirt, and debris
- Puddles, leaks, spills and heavy oil stains/slick-spots that have been treated with kitty litter or other dry, absorbent materials
- Leaves and grass clippings (dispose with brush collection)

Choose Least-Toxic Cleaning Products

- Use cold water when possible and minimize the amount used
- Try to effectively clean dumpster with water only
- If necessary, use biodegradable cleaning agents for easier and less expensive disposal
- Avoid using toxic cleaning agents such as those containing chlorine, ammonia and phosphoric acid
- Use petroleum-consuming microbial cleaning products only on stains and slick spots -- use a minimal amount of water to prevent runoff

City of Austin
WATERSHED PROTECTION
512-974-2550

Proper Runoff Prevention Options

- Use wash mats with raised or curbed edges to contain water
- Place barrier or boom systems down-gradient of the area being washed
- Seal or plug the storm drains and inlets

Proper Collection

- Use pumps or vacuums to collect wastewater
- Place wastewater in a tank or drums for treatment or disposal

Proper Disposal

- If water is pollutant-free, wash or divert water to a vegetated area
- Storm drain inlet filters may be acceptable if proven effective and no soaps or detergents are used
- Contain and collect wash water containing cleaning agents and dispose of in the sanitary sewer system – never to a storm drain, oil/grit separator or waterway
- If on-site sanitary sewer disposal is not possible, store and transport to apermitted facility authorized by the Austin water Utility
- Check your local landfill – some might accept hauled liquid waste

For more information, contact:

Regulatiory Requirements:
City of Austin, Watershed Protection
(512) 974-2550
BFI Landfill (512) 272-4327
Waste Management Landfill (512) 272-4329

Sanitary Sewer System Discharges:
Austin Water Utility (512) 972-1060

www.austintexas.gov/watershed

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION SECTION
WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
24-HOUR POLLUTION HOTLINE: (512) 974-2550

USED COOKING OIL HAULERS / RECYCLERS

Company	Phone Number
Alamo Processors	(210) 923-1071
Alliance Processors	(817) 431-5161
American BioSource	(817) 993-9246
Austin Roll-Off Dumpster	(512) 751-6189
Darling Ingredients Inc.	(800) 800-4841
DieselGreen Fuels	(512) 247-3835
Double R Grease Service	(800) 480-7662
Filta Environmental Kitchen Solutions	(407) 996-5550
Glen's Grease Service	(817) 232-0475
Grease Monster Recycling	(469) 684-3001
HTC Industries	(325) 949-0645
Liquid Environmental Solutions	(866) 694-7327
Mahoney	(253) 222-3568
Metro Grease Service	(512) 420-9213
Restaurant Technologies, Inc.	(888) 796-4997
San Marcos Grease Service	(281) 448-0735
Santa Cecilia Grease Service	(832) 305-1011
Terra Renewal	(972) 996-7560

This list is compiled from various advertisement listings and company contacts and may not represent all used cooking oil haulers that service the Austin area.

The Watershed Protection Department does not endorse company products or services and is not responsible for their performance.

Last updated: September 8, 2016

Vent Hood/Kitchen Equipment Cleaning Companies

Company	Phone Number
AClean	(512) 837-9595
Banester Services	(512) 345-9292
Centex Pressure Washing	(512) 396-4511
Enviromatic Corporation of America, Inc.	(512) 462-6095
Greasebusters	(254) 231-8317
Hoodz Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning	(512) 371-0008
HydroPlus Kitchen Exhaust Services - Hood Cleaning Specialists	(512) 243-7495
PB Technology, LLC	(512) 266-9696
Southwest Ventilation Solutions, LLC	(512) 835-0027
Texas Total Hood Cleaning	(512) 447-5453
USVents, Inc.	(512) 693-0916
Vent Hood Cleaning	(855) 933-5550
Westlake Power Washing Services	(512) 831-5578

This list is compiled from various advertisement listings and company contacts and may not represent all vent hood/kitchen equipment cleaning companies that service the Austin area.

The Watershed Protection Department does not endorse company products or services and is not responsible for their performance.

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION SECTION
WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
512-974-2550

Updated: August 20, 2014

Used Cooking Oil Handling & Spill Cleanup Training

Date and Time of Training: _____

Instructions:

1. Using the provided educational materials, train staff on proper handling of used cooking oil and spill cleanup procedures to prevent pollution and violations to City Code. After completing the training, employees should sign the log to document their attendance.
2. Upon completion of staff training, send the filled-out training log to the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department by one of the following:
   a. Fax: (512) 974-6337, ATTN: Ryan Hebrink
   b. E-mail: Ryan.Hebrink@AustinTexas.gov
   c. Mail: Ryan Hebrink
   City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department
   505 Barton Springs, 11th Floor
   Austin, Texas 78704

Training Log

Employee Name	Employee Signature
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Employee Name	Employee Signature
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