

working for clean rivers

The Bureau of Environmental Services works with Portland residents and businesses to protect water quality, public health, and the environment through wastewater collection and treatment, sewer construction and maintenance, stormwater management, and stream and watershed restoration.



Food Cart and Food Cart Pod Pollution Prevention Guidance

As the number and popularity of food carts and pods in Portland have grown, so have the number of food cart-related pollution reports to Environmental Services.

One reason for the increase in complaints is that many pods do not provide approved sanitary sewer disposal locations, and cart and pod operators lack information about properly managing their wastes.

Environmental Services developed this guidance document in response to requests from food cart and pod operators for more information. The guidelines on the back are an overview and summarize information about how to manage waste and how to avoid city pollution code violations and penalties.

Report Spills or Dumping to the Spill Response Hotline

Call the Spill Response Hotline at **503-823-7180** 24 hours a day to report spills, slicks, and discharges. Please provide:

- Name and contact information
- Date and time of spill
- Spill location
- Description of material spilled and suspected source
- Current weather condition

Photos, if available, are very helpful. Send photos to: **BESDutyOfficer@portlandoregon.gov**



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers

Nick Fish, Commissioner
Michael Jordan, Director

continued on back

Food Cart and Food Cart Pod Pollution Prevention Guidance

Violations can result in enforcement actions against the cart operator, the property owner or both. The city notifies property owners of violations and enforcement related to their property. Enforcement actions can include fines, corrective actions and cost recovery for damages or cleanup. Repeat violations will result in escalating enforcement with increasing fines.

Activities That Can Result in City Enforcement Action

- Dumping grey water (hand-washing water, food wastewater, sink water, mop bucket water, water with disinfectant, etc.) into a storm drain, parking lot or street.
- Washing or spraying down food cart equipment, spills, contaminated pavement or containers into a catch basin, green street planter, sidewalk or street.
- Allowing food waste and oil to run from a cart into a catch basin or onto a street.
- Leaving waste or oil containers uncovered and exposed to rain.
- Failing to maintain food cart grey water holding systems, not repairing leaks, or cleaning up spills from waste transfers (such as the dump hose and hose connections).
- Establishing an illicit sewer connection using a hose or hard plumbing without obtaining a permit or providing treatment with a grease removal device. Wastewater from a mobile unit can only be discharged to the sanitary sewer at an approved location.



Remember that many storm drains lead directly to a river or stream. Only rain should go down storm drains. Wastewater—including hand-washing water, food wastewater, sink water, mop bucket water, or water with disinfectant—needs to go through the treatment plant to prevent pollution.

How to Avoid Enforcement

- A hauler with an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality septic hauling permit must haul away and properly dispose of grey water and other liquid wastes food carts generate. More information at www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/onsite.htm
- A list of haulers is posted at the preferred pumper website. All businesses on the list are trained and permitted to haul and dispose of food cart wastes. More information at <http://preferredpumper.org>

For More Information

City of Portland Environmental Services Cut Through the FOG Program
503-823-7093 or CutFOG@portlandoregon.gov