



Office of Environmental Health & Safety
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 20th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 241-3199
Fax: (213) 241-6816



SAFETY ALERT

No. 05-12

PROPER DISPOSAL PRACTICES
FOR STORMWATER AND SEWER DRAINS

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There have been several recent incidents where school personnel have discharged chemicals into stormwater or sewer drains. To ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, the following information is provided.

Stormwater Drains

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the "Clean Water Act") prohibits the discharge of materials other than stormwater into storm drains. It is illegal to pour or discharge any other substance into a stormwater drain.

There are several exceptions to this prohibition, including fire hydrant flushing; potable water discharge from drinking water fountains and maintenance/repair of potable water pipes; condensate from refrigeration, compressor and air conditioning systems; landscape watering/irrigation drainage; street cleaning; and dewatering during construction activity.

Sewer Drains

Sewer drains include industrial wastewater drains and sanitary wastewater drains in restrooms and kitchens. All such drains are directly or indirectly connected to government-owned treatment facilities. It is unlawful to dispose of any hazardous material or waste into a facility sewer drain, unless specifically provided for in the facility's Industrial Wastewater Permit. The only exception includes soap or diluted janitorial chemicals.

Questions should be directed to Soe Aung at (213) 241-3904.

DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Local District Offices
Garages
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