

For Schools – Large On-site Sewage Systems Best Management Practices (BMPs)



School activities and their associated waste products have the potential to impact an onsite sewage/wastewater system (OSS). Preventing discharge of waste that are not suitable for an OSS is essential for its long-term performance; will help prevent premature failure of the drainfield; and protect groundwater.

Use these best management practices (BMPs) to help control the unwanted products from being disposed into your school's wastewater system. Post instructions in multiple locations; at sinks and near disposal containers. Use these best management practices (BMPs) to help reduce the strength of your wastewater.

Do not dispose of non-biodegradable, concentrated biodegradable, or hazardous, materials into toilets, sinks, or floor drains. Make sure appropriate disposal receptacles are provided and staff are trained to use them correctly.

Kitchens

- Follow the [BMPs for Commercial Kitchens \(PDF\)](#).
- Provide scrapers at the trash cans and educate kitchen workers/students/staff to scrape off food trays.
- Follow manufacturer's use instructions for all sanitization products and **do NOT over-apply**.

Custodial

- Follow manufacturer's use instructions for all cleaning products and **do NOT over-apply**. Avoid the use of products that contain phosphate or quaternary ammonium compounds or have a low pH. A pH above 6.5 is preferable.
- Do not allow water conditioning backwashes/discharge from water softeners, purifiers, sanitizers or conditioners; dehumidifiers and air conditioner discharges; pool and athletic treatment tub water discharges.

Classrooms

- Science and art teachers should be knowledgeable of what their materials contain. If wastes contain heavy metals, (for example, mercury, zinc, or silver) they can **NOT** be disposed to the drains; use proper waste containers instead.
- Paint (even latex), solvents, and photo-developing chemicals can NOT be discharged to drains; dispose in an appropriate container.
- Clay and plasters should be disposed as solid waste.

The WA Department of Ecology can provide guidance on managing wastes that cannot be discharged to the drains. Visit their website at ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics.

For more information visit our website at www.doh.wa.gov/loss or contact the LOSS Program at 360-236-3330 or wastewatermgmt@doh.wa.gov.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.