



## Public Works Department Water Quality Division

### COMMERCIAL CANNABIS OPERATIONS: WATER AND WASTEWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### **ALL CANNABIS OPERATIONS**

- Seal all floor drains in chemical storage areas to prevent contaminated wastewater from discharging into the sanitary sewer. Confirm with property owner, the Building Division, and Fire Department that drains are sealed.
- Train employees to ensure they do not pour chemical substances down sinks, toilets, or floor drains.
- Anti-backflow devices must be used on water supply hoses, and other mixing/loading practices to reduce the risk of cross-contamination with the water supply.
- A certified waste hauler needs to be hired to properly dispose of spent wastes.
- City staff must have access to waste manifest records upon request.

#### **CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

##### **CHEMICAL STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL**

- Liquid and/or flammable solvents, such as hexane and alcohols, cannot be disposed of down the drain.
- Closed loop cannabinoid extraction systems must be employed.
- All chemical substances must be stored in a manner, method, and location which ensures there is no threat of discharge to the sewer. Damaged or otherwise illegible labels shall be replaced immediately.

##### **FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES, AND PEST MANAGEMENT**

- Evaluate irrigation water, soils, growth media, and plant tissue to optimize plant growth and avoid over-fertilization.
- If pesticides may be used, notify the City immediately and provide the proposed pesticide products, quantities, and frequency of application.
- A certified Pest Control Advisor (PCA) must be used when pesticides will be used in cannabis cultivation operations.
- Integrated pest management strategies should be used when applying pesticides.
- Refer to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation if pesticides will be used in cannabis cultivation operations.
  - <http://cdpr.ca.gov/docs/cannabis/index.htm>

- If someone from your staff is a certified PCA and will be administering pesticides, ensure that staff periodically calibrate pesticide application equipment.
- Fertilizers, insecticides, plant growth regulators, and other chemical substances must always be disposed of in a safe manner.
- All off-haul manifests must be kept on-site for at least three (3) years.

## **SPILLS**

- A written spill procedure must be posted in any area where a chemical spill may occur.
- Employees must be trained to safely respond to a spill.
- A sufficient supply of appropriate spill clean-up materials must be kept on-site and in convenient reach of locations where spills may occur.
- Consider using a wet/dry shop vacuum cleaner to collect spills. Vacuums must not be used to clean-up solvents and/or other volatile fluids.
- Absorbent rags may be used to clean up small spills. Used absorbent rags may be categorized as hazardous waste; contact the local hazardous materials management agency for further information.
- For spills that leave your facility, refer to your Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP), filed with your fire department or other hazardous materials ("Haz-Mat") authority that describes how to prepare for and respond to larger spills.
- Rags used for clean-up of contaminated waste spills cannot be laundered on site. Soiled rags must be stored in a container in accordance with local fire codes.
- Soiled rags must be laundered by a service that is permitted to handle contaminated rags. Inform the launderer of the rags usage.

## **PRODUCTION OF EDIBLE CANNABIS PRODUCTS**

### **FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG)**

- Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) shall be scraped from dishware before washing.
- A FOG removal device (grease trap and/or grease interceptor) must be installed and maintained to prevent fats from clogging the sewer or causing sewage to back-up.
- A licensed FOG waste hauler must routinely clean and maintain grease removal devices.