



City of Fair Oaks Ranch Stormwater Pollution Prevention

How to Properly Manage Runoff from Animal Pens and Wash Down Areas

Sec.013 Illicit Discharges

(c) Prohibited Discharges

(J) Any runoff or wash down water from any animal pen, kennel, or fowl or livestock containment area.

https://library.municode.com/tx/fair_oaks_ranch/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=1130890



Runoff management results in:

- Improved water quality,
- Flood control,
- A healthier environment, and
- Better working conditions.

Arenas, paddocks, pens, and animal enclosures have the potential to release excess sediment, which can pollute runoff. Erosion also increases maintenance costs by requiring the surface material to be replaced more often. The best practice is to divert runoff around these areas and separate the animal enclosures from waterways using vegetated buffer strips.



Whether the wash area is inside or outside, sanitation, safety, proximity to water resources, and environmental impacts are key factors. Some important considerations include:

- Locating wash areas at least 50 feet away from waterbodies, wells, and septic tank drainfields. Direct the runoff to a well-vegetated area.
- Picking up manure in wash areas.
- Surrounding outdoor wash areas with vegetation that can capture sediment and nutrients in the wash water and prevent it from reaching water resources.



Improve infiltration and drainage:

Use measures such as base, rock, and sand to improve infiltration and drainage. Animal enclosures with a gravel or sand bottom allow for infiltration and percolation into the groundwater when built in areas with less than a 10% slope. These measures also divert and slow down drainage which helps flood control and minimizes ponding. In order to implement this process, it is recommended to have a perimeter barrier to keep material in place.



Nutrients from manure, transported by rainwater into streams and wetlands, decrease water quality and encourage aquatic weeds which harm the surrounding environment. Waterborne diseases can be spread by animal waste which are caused by variety of microorganisms, such as cryptosporidium parasites, and may lead to devastating illnesses.

Inspect animal enclosures after each rain event for signs of erosion. Repair any damaged areas.

