



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Auto & Truck: Washing, Steam Cleaning and Detailing

This advisory is to seek your assistance in the prevention of storm drain contamination.

Auto washing, polishing, steam cleaning and detailing services use a number of products and solutions to clean, deodorize and restore luster to various components of cars and trucks. Mobile wash services as well as on premises operations, clean various surfaces of vehicles, including wheels, undercarriages, engines, etc.

Wastewater from steam cleaning, pressure washing and other cleaning operations contain sediments, chemicals, detergents, acids, caustics, oils, greases, excessive pH levels and other contaminants harmful to fish and aquatic life, which must not enter the storm drainage system.

This is an important issue in Port Coquitlam as the storm drains (the roadside and parking lot drains) are separate from the sanitary sewer and discharge untreated into local creeks and streams. There are over 30 km of open creeks and streams in Port Coquitlam. These creeks form an important network of watercourses, which provide natural habitat for salmon, trout, and other aquatic life.

Best Management Practices

To prevent contaminants from entering the storm drain system and ultimately our creeks and rivers please observe the following practices:

- Tools and equipment must not be washed in areas where the wastewater flows to the storm drain system.
Options to protect the storm drain system include:
 - Establish a “wash pad” connected to the sanitary sewer system.
 - Direct wash water to an “isolated” sump or holding tank for collection and removal by a disposal company.
 - Where collection of waste water from washing or mobile pressure washing activities is impractical, it may be permissible to direct the waste water away from storm drains to landscaped or gravel areas; however, you may be liable for any contamination or damage associated with this practice.
 - Contact the City of Port Coquitlam, Engineering Department, for further information on sanitary sewer connections, or contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for other disposal information.
- Interior drains must have an approved connection to the sanitary sewer system.
- Wastewater from radiator flushing, steam cleaning, engine cleaning, parts washing, caustic tank cleaning operations or pressure washing result in heavy loads of sediments, oils and grease. This wastewater must be disposed to an approved connection to the sanitary sewer and take place in areas where there is no risk of spillage to the storm drain system.
- Drip pans must be placed under any leaking vehicles to capture leaking fluids.
- Waste automotive fluids and parts washing solvents must be properly recycled or disposed of by an approved disposal or recycling contractor.

Best Management Practices, continued

- Cleaning and deodorizing chemicals, polishing compounds, solvents, acids and caustics must be stored in a secure area where spills will be contained and will not enter the drainage or the sanitary sewer systems.
- Old cleaning, deodorizing and polishing chemicals may require special disposal. Follow the manufacturer's directions for disposal of cleaning products. For further disposal information contact the manufacturer, the B.C. Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253 or the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection at 604-582-5200.
- Train employees on proper techniques and ensure all employees are aware of their important role in preventing storm drain contamination.

Spills

Spills must be contained and cleaned up immediately to prevent the material from entering the drainage or sanitary sewer systems. Please follow the clean-up procedures as listed in the product's Material Safety Data Sheet.

Some chemicals may be flammable, toxic, corrosive, or have other hazardous properties. Call the **Fire Department** immediately at **911** or the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, **Provincial Emergency Program** at **1-800-663-3456**, if in doubt about any spill situation.

Enforcement

Section 11 of the City of Port Coquitlam *Sewer Maintenance Bylaw*, 1971, No. 1091 states that:

11. No gasoline, napha, or other inflammable liquid or explosive substance, and no grease, oil, lye, free acid, mud, grit, plaster of paris, lime, clay or any other trade or industrial waste which may injure, or impair the efficiency or safety of the sanitary sewer system or storm drain system, through deposits forming in same or owing to the attacking and weakening of such sanitary sewer or storm drain, shall be discharged into any sanitary sewer system or storm drain system within the City.

In addition, The City of Port Coquitlam *Waterways Protection Bylaw*, 1969, No. 917 Section 2 states that:

2. Every person is prohibited from polluting any stream, creek, waterway, watercourse, waterworks, ditch, drain, or sewer, whether or not it is located on private property.

Violators of the provisions of these bylaws shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and shall be liable to a fine of at least \$200.00 and up to \$2,000.00 and imprisonment for up to six months. Also, violators will be held responsible for any associated clean up costs.

Persons responsible for storm drain contamination could also be liable under the following environmental legislation:

- The Federal Fisheries Act
- The Provincial Waste Management Act
- The Provincial Fish Protection Act

For further information contact: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection: Phone: 604-582-5200
Port Coquitlam, Engineering Department: Phone: 604-927-5420

This bulletin is provided as a guide only. The information is compiled from various sources and is NOT warranted as to its accuracy and sufficiency by the City of Port Coquitlam. It is the responsibility of the business licence applicant to comply with all applicable bylaws and legislation.