



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Auto Rebuilders and Body Shops

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

Automobile rebuilders and body shops mechanically remove old paint, apply fillers as necessary, wash and prepare surfaces with primer before applying new paint.

Fillers, paints, thinners, automotive fluids and wastewater are common waste products from automotive rebuilders and autobody companies. These materials are harmful to fish and aquatic life and must not enter the storm drain system.

Some sources of contamination include:

- Routine spillage from product and waste handling, such as waste oil or antifreeze.
- Outdoor transfer of chemicals or automotive fluids without containment or storm drain protection.
- Residue from outside storage areas such as improperly stored drums with residual chemicals.
- Wastewater discharges such as radiator flushing and engine washing.
- Deliberate waste disposal to storm drains, such as solvents, antifreeze, oil, gasoline, or other automotive fluids.

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, it is suggested that you implement relevant sections of the *Code of Practice for the Auto Recycling Industry in British Columbia* which detail the following suggested procedures to prevent contamination:

- Waste water from radiator flushing, steam cleaning, pressure washing, engine shampooing, parts washing or caustic tank cleaning operations 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. Contact the City of Port Coquitlam, Engineering Department for connections to the sanitary sewer.
- Collect all leftover paints, solvents and other wastes and reuse, recycle, or store and dispose of properly. Check with the Port Coquitlam, Fire Department for storage requirements.
- Paints and other coatings, thinners, solvents, sludges from solvent recycling units, etc. are not permitted in any storm drain, sewer, or plumbing fixture. Disposal of these materials is regulated under the Waste Management Act and must not be disposed of as garbage. Contact a disposal company that disposes of or recycles solvents, or contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for information on proper disposal.

Best Management Practices, continued

- Paint chips and dust from mechanical removal of old finishes and overspray dusts must be swept up and disposed of with regular garbage. Do not allow these to enter the storm drainage system.
- Train employees on proper spray techniques to minimize overspray waste. Painting of vehicles and parts must be done in an enclosed, approved paint booth. Contact the GVRD, Air Quality Source Control for painting requirements.
- Ensure that 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: Automotive Retailers Association of BC: Phone: 604-432-7987
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection: Phone: 604-582-5200
GVRD Air Quality & Source Control: Phone: 604-436-6700
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.