



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Auto Wreckers and Salvage Yards

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

The dismantling of automobiles involves the handling of significant quantities of automotive fluids and other hazardous materials including fuels, engine oil, oil filters, transmission fluids, antifreeze, brake fluids, refrigerants, power steering fluids, mercury switches and lead acid batteries. Many of these materials are considered special wastes pursuant to the Provincial Waste Management Act and require special handling, storage and disposal considerations.

These materials are toxic to fish and aquatic life and must not enter the storm drainage system or spill to the ground. In addition, flammable liquids can also create explosive conditions and must not enter any drain, sewer or plumbing fixture.

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:

- All fluids must be drained and collected on a dismantling pad enclosed in a building or contained under a roof. Surface runoff must be prevented from flooding the pad, and the pad must retain all spilled fluids and made of chemically resistant, impervious material.
- Dismantling, fluid draining and parts recycling must be done where storm drains or soil cannot be contaminated.
- Use drip pans to collect fluids from leaking vehicles until vehicles are properly drained.
- All vehicle parts containing fluids, solvents, cleaning solutions and automotive fluids must be stored in leak-proof containers or under cover on an impermeable surface with spill containment. Check with the Port Coquitlam, Fire Department for storage requirements.
- Use a crusher with a built-in fluid collection system or place the crusher under cover with drip pans. Do not allow any fluids to spill to the ground or enter the storm drain system.
- Do not allow wastewater from pressure washing, steam cleaning or caustic tanks to spill to the ground or enter the storm drain system. Use a wastewater recycling system or an approved connection to the sanitary sewer system.
- Many items such as lead acid batteries and mercury switches are considered “special wastes” under the Waste Management Act. Contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for disposal requirements.
- Store batteries under cover with curbed, impermeable polypropylene plastic pails to temporarily store leaking or cracked batteries. Store mercury switches in a leak-proof, closed container. Check with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for storage requirements.

Best Management Practices, continued

- Do not store vehicles until the various fluids, batteries, and mercury switches etc., have been properly removed.
- Ensure that all employees and your customers are aware of their important role in preventing storm drain contamination.

It is recommended that you review your operation with respect to preventing contamination of the soil and drainage systems, and implement the *Code of Practice for the Auto Recycling Industry in British Columbia* of the Auto Retailers Association of British Columbia.

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
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.