



## Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

### **Furniture Refinishers**

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

Wood and metal furniture surface finishes are mechanically or chemically removed in preparation of the application of new finish coatings.

Furniture refinishing companies commonly use supplies such as fillers, sealers, stains, shellacs, varnishes, lacquers, paints, solvents, thinners, paint removers and adhesives harmful to fish and aquatic life, which must not enter the storm drain 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:

- Do not clean brushes or other applicators or rinse containers into a street, gutter, or storm drain. Collect all leftover paints, solvents and other wastes and reuse, recycle, or dispose of properly.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and rinse in the sink.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Clean with thinner and then filter and re-use the thinners or solvents. Set used thinner or solvent aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles. Then pour off clear liquid into another container for future use. Used solvents and thinners must be collected and must not be allowed to enter any storm drain, sewer, or plumbing fixture or be disposed of in the garbage. Contact a disposal company that disposes or recycles solvents, or contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Contact the Port Coquitlam, Fire Department for storage and handling requirements for solvents and thinners, etc.
- Leftover paints and coatings must be prevented from entering any storm drain, sewer, and must not be placed in the garbage. Use leftover paints on the next job, give it to a charity for their use, or contact the Paint Care Association at 604-482-8686 or the BC Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253 for the nearest paint collection depot.
- Chemical or mechanical paint stripping residue, paints, paint chips and paint dusts containing lead, mercury, tributyl tin or other hazardous or leachable compounds, may be considered “special wastes” under the Waste Management Act and may require special disposal considerations. Contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection at 604-582-5200 for disposal requirements. For other paint and dry paint disposal or recycling options, please contact the Paint Care Association at 604-482-8686.

**Best Management Practices, continued**

- Please check with the GVRD, Air Quality and Source Control for any requirements regarding air emissions from painting and finishing operations.
- Train employees on proper techniques to minimize coating waste, 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:**

Paint Care Association:	Phone: 604-482-8686
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection:	Phone: 604-582-5200
GVRD, Air Quality and 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.