



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Painting and Decorating Contractors

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

Painting and decorating companies commonly use solvents, thinners, paint removers, adhesives, paints, and other architectural coatings. These operations also require the use of rags, brushes and other equipment that must be cleaned immediately after use.

Architectural coatings, adhesives, solvents, and cleaning residues contain chemicals 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:

- Use dykes to prevent wastewater from high pressure water stripping or cleaning of building exteriors from entering the storm drain system. Where collection is impractical, it may be permissible to direct the wastewater away from storm drains to landscaped or gravel areas; however, you may be liable for any contamination or damage associated with this practice.
- Do not clean brushes or applicators or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain. Collect all wash water, solutions and solvents used to clean equipment and reuse, recycle, or dispose of properly.
- For latex-based paints, paint-out the brushes to the extent possible and rinse in the sink.
- For oil-based paints, paint-out the brushes to the extent possible then clean with thinners or solvents. Set used thinner or solvent aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles then reuse clear liquid. Used solvents and thinners must be collected and must not be allowed to enter any storm drain, sewer, or plumbing fixture. 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 paint 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 or the BC Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253 for the nearest paint collection depot.

Best Management Practices, continued

- 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.
- Ensure that all employees and your customers 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
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.