



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Paving, Concrete Delivery and Finishing Products

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

After concrete delivery, it is the typical practice to rinse the excess concrete off trucks, chutes and other equipment before the concrete can harden. Concrete finishing activities, such as exposed aggregate for driveways, use wash-off water to remove the surface of the concrete to develop the desired finish. Diesel fuel is commonly used to remove excess asphalt from paving equipment.

Rinsing of concrete, diesel fuel or other chemicals to the storm drain system can create the following problems:

- Concrete will solidify in the curbs, gutters, drains and pipes, restricting water flow or causing blockages.
- Concrete wash-off water is highly alkaline and includes silt and chemicals, which are harmful to fish and aquatic life. Diesel fuel or other solvents can also create potential flammable or explosive situations.

Concrete and wash-off waters from concrete delivery and finishing activities 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, it is recommended that you implement the *BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association (BCRMCA)*, *Best Management Practices* which detail the following suggested procedures to capture waste water and sediments:

On-Site Disposal:

- Direct concrete washings to areas on the construction site where the sediments will be filtered out in the soil. Do not allow washings to enter the storm drain system or any watercourse.
- Dispose of concrete washings and exposed aggregate wash-off water to temporary percolating pits or trenches that will hold all wash-off water. Use dams and pumps in conjunction with these methods where necessary to prevent wash-off water from reaching the storm drain.
- Use a compacted granular sand and gravel base to absorb wash-off water where soils are impermeable.
- Infiltration basins must be located as far as possible from drainage ditches, drain tiles and water wells. Where this is not possible, use proper off-site disposal practices.
- Use drip pans to capture any diesel fuel and save for future reuse. Do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts.
- Diesel and other solvents are not permitted to enter any storm drain, sewer or plumbing fixture at any time. Diesel, solvents, etc. may be "special wastes" under the Waste Management Act and require special disposal considerations. Contact a disposal company that disposes or recycles solvents or contact the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for further disposal information.

Best Management Practices, continued

Off-Site Disposal:

If wash-off water cannot be directed to suitable areas on the construction site, it must be contained, collected, and disposed of to an approved off-site facility or treatment centre. (For information contact the BCMCA at 604-436-2083)

- Return excess concrete to the concrete batch plant for reuse or recycling.
- Trucks and equipment must be washed at the proper facilities at the batch plant.
- 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: BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association: Phone: 604-436-2083
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.