



Environmental Protection Advisory Bulletin

Restaurants

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

Restaurants and food service operations must store grease and other organic wastes. Waste grease containers and garbage bins are often exposed to the rain where greases and other organic material are washed to the storm drain system.

Wastewater from restaurant cleaning operations contain greases, sediments, chemicals, soaps, detergents, and other contaminants 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:

- All wash water, including that from cooking vent filters, must not enter the storm drain system. Wash water must be disposed of through an approved connection to the sanitary sewer system on the premises or trucked to an approved disposal facility.
- Cover all waste materials, grease barrels and garbage containers and store in secure areas to prevent vandalism and rodents. Store where spills will not enter the storm drain system.
- Liquid wastes from garbage compactors must not be allowed to enter the storm drain system.
- Cleaning, sanitizing, deodorizing chemicals and solvents must be stored in a secure area where spills will be contained and will not enter the drainage or the sanitary sewer systems.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions for clean-up and disposal. Old cleaning, sanitizing and deodorizing chemicals may require special disposal.
- For disposal information contact the manufacturer or the BC Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253
- Ensure that all employees and your maintenance company is aware of their important role in preventing storm drain contamination.

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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:

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection: Phone: 604-582-5200
Simon Fraser Health Region Phone: 604-927-2000
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.