
AUTOMOTIVE SALES AND SERVICING OPERATIONS

When water and rainwater run across the ground they can pick up and carry pollutants along with them. A common pollutant found at automotive operations is oil which is readily noted by a rainbow sheen on top of water. Other pollutants from automotive sales and servicing operations may include sediments, heavy metals, detergents, and toxic or flammable automotive fluids. Rainwater and water used outside may carry pollutants and will enter storm drains and the storm sewer system. Storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where contaminants can be toxic to fish and the environment.

Flammable liquids can also create explosive conditions in the sewer system and therefore must not be allowed to enter any drain, plumbing fixture or sewer at any time.

Best Management Practices

Pollutants from automotive sales and servicing operations can be reduced by following, at a minimum, best management practices including:

- All waste automotive fluids must be stored in appropriate containers for recycling or disposal by an approved disposal contractor or recycler.
- All containers of new or used automotive fluids are to be stored in a secure area where there is no access to the sewer system. Curbing, diking and a roof may be required.
- Oil filters are to be drained and stored separately for recycling by an approved recycler.
- Drip pans or containers should be placed under any leaking vehicles stored or parked on your site to capture leaking fluids. Captured fluids are to be placed in appropriate waste containers for disposal or recycling.
- Sweep parking lots and work areas rather than flushing motor oils, automotive fluids and debris with water into storm drains.
- Vehicles shall not be washed in an area where the wastewater enters the storm sewer system. Vehicle washing must be done on an impermeable pad with a drain connected to an oil interceptor prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system. For more information on oil interceptors and car wash areas contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000 or 311 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.
- Vehicles that have been prewashed may be rinsed off using clean water to remove dust or particulate matter.
- Steam cleaning, pressure washing, engine shampooing, parts washing or caustic tank cleaning operations must be done in areas where there is no access to the storm sewer system. Disposal of wastes from these operations must be in compliance with the Sewer and Watercourse By-law No.

8093. For further information contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000 or 311 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.

- Interior drains at automotive repair operations must be connected to an oil interceptor prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system.
- Exterior parking lot drains must be connected to a storm sump that discharges to the storm sewer system. The storm sump shall be sized and designed according to the Vancouver Building By-law and shall be designed to trap small spills of petroleum products.
- Storm sumps are to be inspected by the operator of the automotive business on a weekly basis. Any accumulations of oil or greases must be skimmed off the sump during the weekly inspection and immediately after a spill. Sumps are to be cleaned and pumped out using the services of a vacuum truck as required.

Spills

Spills of automotive fluids or other hazardous materials must be cleaned up immediately. Spills should be contained, curbed or other measures taken to prevent the spill from entering the sewer system or contaminating the site. If a spill enters the storm sewer system the incident must be reported to the Environmental Protection Branch immediately at 604-450-3493 (24-hour pager). Flammable spills must also be reported to the Fire Department immediately at 911.

Enforcement

Section 3.2(1) of the Sewer and Watercourse By-law No. 8093 states that, “No person shall cause or permit contaminated water or wastewater to be discharged to a storm sewer.” Violations are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per offence.

For further information contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000, 311 or environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.

(Original signed by)

D. Robertson
SUPERVISOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BRANCH