
BULLETIN 2002-001-EV

Revised August 17, 2015

CONSTRUCTION SITE WASTES

A variety of products are used at construction sites and building renovations that may be flammable, toxic or corrosive in nature. These products include solvents, adhesives, cement products, paints and other surface coatings. If these products are improperly used, stored or disposed of, the contaminants may be carried from the construction site by storm water runoff and enter the storm sewer system. Storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where contaminants may be toxic to fish and the environment.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The amount of contaminants entering the storm sewer system from construction sites can be reduced by following best management practices.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control measures are required for all construction sites where there is an excavation or disturbance of soil. For more information related to erosion and sediment control, please refer to Bulletin 2002-002-EV - Erosion and Sediment Control for Small Lot Developments and Bulletin 2002-003-EV - Erosion and Sediment Control for Large Lot Developments.

Concrete, Portland Cement and Lime Based Construction Materials

A designated washout area should be provided for concrete contaminated equipment including concrete pumping equipment. The washout area should discharge to a sediment trap or a pond located on site or to a gravelled area where the drainage can be confined to the site and will not enter the drainage system or any water body. The volume of water used for washing should be limited to the minimum volume of water required.

Any water that comes in contact with uncured or partly cured concrete, portland cement or lime containing construction materials is to be prevented from entering the storm sewer system unless the water has been tested and has a pH of between 6.5 and 9.0 as well as total suspended solids (TSS) less than 75 mg/L.

For more information on concrete wastes, please refer to Bulletin 2000-056-EV - Concrete Deliveries and Finishing.

Material Handling and Storage

Materials such as paints, coatings, wood preservatives, waterproofing materials, fuels and any other hazardous material or potentially polluting substance are to be stored in an enclosed area or covered area where rainfall and runoff cannot come in contact with the material. The storage areas are to be curbed so that any spills are contained. A spill contingency plan should be developed and a chemical inventory should be maintained on site and include Material Safety Data Sheets. Containers and storage areas are to be inspected for spills or damage.

Fuelling of Vehicles

Vehicles and equipment should not be fuelled where a spill could enter the storm sewer system or any watercourse. Spills must be cleaned up immediately and any contaminated soil must be removed and disposed of at an approved facility. Fuels must be stored in compliance with the Vancouver Fire Bylaw.

Waste Disposal

Toxic and hazardous waste must be disposed of in an approved manner. A chemical disposal company or contractor may be required to dispose of some wastes. Flammable, toxic and corrosive wastes may not be discharged into the sewer system and the disposal of hazardous wastes or materials to the City of Vancouver landfill is prohibited. For more information on paint wastes, please refer to Bulletin 2000-051-EV - Painting Contractors.

Spills

Spills must be cleaned up and the wastes disposed of in an approved manner. If a spill enters City property or the sewer system, please contact the Environmental Protection Branch immediately at 604 873-7000 or 311. If there is an immediate danger to health and property, contact the Vancouver Fire Department at 911.

Enforcement

Section 3.2(1) of the Sewer and Watercourse By-law, No.8093 states; "No person shall cause or permit contaminated water or wastewater to be discharged into a storm sewer." Violators 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.



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