
BULLETIN 2000-054-EV

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RESTAURANTS

Restaurants and food service operations are seldom thought of as sources of pollution however, the improper disposal of cleaning solutions, poor storage practices of wastes and runoff from storage and parking areas can be sources of storm water contamination. Waste grease containers and garbage bins that are exposed to the rain may result in greases and other organic material being washed into the storm sewer system. Cooking vent filters are not to be cleaned in parking areas where the disposal of wash-water, cleaning agents and cooking grease may be discharged to the storm sewer system. Storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where contaminants can be toxic to fish and the environment.

Poor waste grease disposal practices can also cause costly sewer maintenance problems in public and private sewer systems.

Best Management Practices

To stop contaminants from entering the storm sewer system from your operation, at a minimum, the following should be practised:

- All waste materials are to be stored in areas where spills will not enter the storm sewer system, and in areas protected from the rain.
- Waste grease barrels and garbage containers must be covered and secured to prevent vandalism and spills.
- If garbage compactors are used the liquid waste may not be discharged to the storm sewer system. The disposal of liquid wastes from garbage compactors must comply with the City of Vancouver, Sewer and Watercourse Bylaw No. 8093 and the Metro Vancouver Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw No. 268, 2012. For further information contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000 or 3-1-1.
- Cooking vent filters shall be cleaned where the wastes will not enter the storm sewer system.
- Wash-water including mop bucket waste water, cleaning solutions and waste greases shall not be placed, discharged or allowed to run into storm drains or catch basins.
- To dispose of unused cleaning products contact the B.C. Recycling Hotline at www.rcbc.ca or 604-732-9253.

Spills

All spills must be contained to prevent the spilled material from entering the storm sewer system and must be cleaned up immediately. Grease spills can be slippery and are a safety hazard to pedestrians and traffic. If a grease spill occurs on City property contact our Streets Operation Branch immediately at 604-873-7000 or 3-1-1.

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.” Violators are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per offence.

For further information contact the City of Vancouver’s Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000 or 3-1-1 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.

(Original signed by)

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