

## Your Responsibility

As a business operator or property owner, you may have responsibilities under:

### 1. Local government bylaws

Your municipality or the CRD may have stormwater-related bylaws that include:

- prohibiting all business waste and other specific prohibited wastes from entering the storm drain system and local waterways
- catch basin maintenance, inspection and record-keeping requirements
- spill response plans
- protection of natural water courses, ditches and stormwater drainage system
- codes of practice for specific business sectors

Also, Bylaw 4168 applies specifically to all businesses on the Saanich Peninsula. This bylaw helps protect streams, lakes, and marine shorelines from pollution by prohibiting domestic, commercial, and industrial contaminants from entering stormwater drainage systems. It includes codes of practice for parking lots and outdoor storage of materials or equipment.

### 2. Other jurisdictions

**Emergency Management BC** is responsible for responding to spills of any hazardous/harmful substance (oils/grease, gasoline, paints/solvents, mechanical fluids, soils, etc.) in any quantity that may impact the environment.

Any person responsible for a stormwater drainage system contamination may be held liable under the following environmental legislation:

- federal *Fisheries Act*
- BC Hazardous Waste Regulation
- BC *Environmental Management Act*
- BC *Water Sustainability Act*



## Be a Watershed-wise Business

Watershed-wise businesses ensure contaminants in stormwater runoff stay out of storm drain system, local waterways and marine shorelines.

### Learn More

To learn more about being a watershed-wise business, visit:

- [www.crd.bc.ca/Bylaw4168](http://www.crd.bc.ca/Bylaw4168)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/catchbasin](http://www.crd.bc.ca/catchbasin)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/clw](http://www.crd.bc.ca/clw)
- [www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds](http://www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds)



Making a difference...together

**Capital Regional District**  
Environmental Protection  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7  
250.360.3253

### In the event of a spill, contact:

**1. Emergency Management BC:**  
**1.800.663.3456 (available 24/7)**

**2. Local government contacts:**  
**[www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill](http://www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill)**

For Business

# Construction Site Outdoor Activities

**CRD** | Environmental Services



**Reduce your environmental  
liability by preventing  
stormwater contamination**



## Sources of Spills

Construction sites can create a significant volume of stormwater runoff from open excavations and soil erosion.

Following stormwater best management practices or codes of practice is critical to preventing contaminants from entering the storm drain system, which leads directly into creeks, lakes, wetlands and marine shorelines.

## Spill Response

If you have a spill/leak:

1. Make sure the spill poses no immediate threat to people. If flammable, eliminate all sources of ignition. **Call 911 for spills that are flammable, toxic, corrosive or hazardous.**
2. Stop source of spill and prevent flow from entering storm drains, ditch, roadway, creek or shoreline. **Do NOT clean up by hosing down the spill.** Instead, use absorbent pads, rags or kitty litter and put in the garbage.
3. **Call BC at Environmental Emergency Program 1.800.663.3456.** If the spill of a prohibited waste enters a storm drain, ditch or public roadway, also call your local government public works department. Phone numbers can be found at [www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill](http://www.crd.bc.ca/report-spill).

## Best Management Practices

### 1. Routine operations & staff training

- Locate all the on and offsite storm drains, ditches and nearby. Place appropriate sediment control cloths and barriers in all storm drains and to prevent overland flow.
- Be prepared for unforeseen volume and frequency of rain or snow melt.
- Collect all wastewater generated from concrete work and aggregate washing in settlement tanks.
- Dispose of water and sediment according to environmental regulations.

### 2. Environmental risk & pollution prevention plans

Site foremen or the environmental monitor must prepare and implement a pollution prevention plan to address environmental risk for all construction activities and materials likely to cause stormwater contamination. The plan must:

- identify potential sources of stormwater pollution
- describe practices to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site
- reduce contaminants by controlling the volume of stormwater runoff (e.g., taking steps to allow stormwater to infiltrate, store and be treated)
- identify procedures the operator will implement to comply with the terms and conditions of construction and environmental permits
- monitor and adjust activities as required to prevent impacts to nearby creeks or lakes

### 3. Ponding, erosion & sediment control

- Never pump or pour ponded rain or wastewater onto street or into storm drain, ditch or waterway.
- Prevent erosion and runoff, minimize land disturbance and leave maximum vegetation cover.

- Cover piles of building materials like cement, sand and other powders. Regularly inspect for spillages and locate them where they will not be washed into waterways, ditches or storm drain systems.
- Erect sediment barriers for extreme rain events.

## Stormwater Pollution

Contaminated stormwater runoff is generated by rain or water from outdoor activities and transports contaminants over impervious surfaces (i.e., outdoor work areas or parking lots) into the storm drain network through catch basins or ditches. These drains and ditches lead directly to creeks, lakes, wetlands or shorelines.

Potential sources of stormwater pollution from construction or development sites include:

- any soils, rocks or fill that are exposed to weather or being disturbed
- rainwater accumulating or ponding in excavated areas
- vehicles tracking soil off site
- wastewater from aggregate washing, concrete or cement work
- wastewater from rinsing equipment or surfaces
- fuel or oil spills

Examples of contaminants include:

- soils travelling in stormwater or ditches
- improperly stored aggregate, concrete, cement or improperly stored wastewater
- wash or rinse water from any activity on site
- fuel, oil, paint and solvents
- ponded rain or wastewater that contains suspended solids

These and other contaminants may be considered **prohibited wastes** under stormwater-related local bylaws. For a full list, see your local bylaw.