

## 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

## Restaurants & Food Services

**CRD** | Environmental Services



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



## Sources of Spills

Restaurants and food service businesses often have rooftop grease exhaust units. These units connect to the rooftop and need to be maintained to prevent rain from washing grease into downspouts and storm drains. 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 Environmental Emergency Program at 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

- Never pour or allow any fluids, wash/rinse water, wastewater or any spills to flow into storm drains, ditch, parking lot, outdoor work area or roadway.
- Hire a professional to clean and maintain rooftop grease exhaust units and be sure that cleaning process includes collecting all grease and wastewater for trucked disposal.

### 2. Outdoor storage

- Provide secondary containment sufficient in size to hold a spill of stored items such as used grease containers.
- Locate garbage, kitchen scraps and recycling away from catchment if possible.
- Locate storage area for easy staff access.
- Secure all containers to prevent spills.
- Provide cover from rain and snow for all items stored outdoors that can pollute.

### 3. Employee education & training

- Train employees on spill response and spill kit usage.
- Ensure spill kit is easily accessible and stocked.
- Regularly dry sweep outdoor work area, storage area and parking lot. Do not hose down.
- Dispose of all wash and rinse water down the correct drain with sewer connection.
- Support employees to identify and address potential outdoor leaks and spills.

### 4. Catch basin maintenance

- Business operators are responsible for keeping stormwater treatment works in good operating condition.

- Have a qualified company pump out your catch basin annually and keep records of inspection and maintenance.

## 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 restaurants and food service businesses include:

- grease accumulating on rooftops due to poorly maintained rooftop exhaust units or improper cleaning that allows wastewater to flow into storm drain system
- outdoor rinsing, or washing and maintenance of equipment, surfaces or vehicles
- leaks from containers or storage areas for grease, garbage, compost and recycling
- improper disposal of wastewater
- leaks from vehicles

Examples of contaminants include:

- fats, oils and grease
- liquid waste or leaks from compost, garbage and recycling containers
- wastewater from cleaning or rinsing equipment, containers, surfaces, vehicles
- cleaning solutions

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