

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why is there a CRD Sewer Use Bylaw?

To protect human health, sanitary sewer infrastructure, sewage treatment processes and the environment by reducing or eliminating contaminants that are flushed, poured or otherwise discharged down the drain into a CRD sanitary sewer.

## What types of food services facilities have to comply with the CRD Sewer Use Bylaw?

Any commercial business where food is prepared, packaged, shipped, sold or eaten including:

- bakeries
- butcher shops
- coffee shops
- grocery stores
- institutional kitchens (including schools, health or residential care facilities)
- restaurants
- caterers
- wholesale food processors
- delicatessens
- fast-food outlets
- cafeterias
- pubs
- other similar places and operations

## Why are food service facilities of concern?

Fats, oils and grease and other food wastes can plug pipes and contribute to odours and corrosion in the sewer system (pipes, pumps and lift stations).

In addition to increasing sewer maintenance costs, plugged and corroded sanitary sewer pipes can result in overflows and leaks which can be a serious public health and environmental concern.

Sewer odours often indicate the presence of toxic hydrogen sulfide gases which can be dangerous to sewage workers and the public if concentrated in confined spaces.

Although the problem exists throughout the sanitary sewer system, it is more evident where there are concentrations of food service businesses.

## What are some contaminants?

Fats, oils, grease and food waste including salad dressing, milk products, gravy, and garbage food waste.

## Does our school's cafeteria kitchen have to meet the CRD Sewer Use Bylaw requirements?

Yes, if it is connected to the CRD sanitary sewer.

## What if the kitchen is connected to a septic system?

Many of the best management practices are the same.

## Has changing our actions made an environmental difference?

Yes, working together with local industries, businesses and institutions, we have reduced the amounts of contaminants discharged by the food service industry to the marine environment and there have been fewer blockages in the sanitary sewer system.

## What about wastewater treatment?

Preventing pollution at the source (home, business or institution) plays a significant role in protecting the environment regardless of the level of wastewater treatment. Some pollutants may not make it to the treatment plant, blocking the system. Some may not be removed, or only partially removed, by treatment; while other pollutants can be reactivated or negatively altered with wastewater treatment.

## Other Food Service Waste-Related Regulations

- **CRD Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw:** regulations for disposal of garbage landfilled at Hartland landfill and recycling facility, including the 2015 Kitchen Scraps Ban.
- **Municipal storm sewer bylaws:** regulations for disposal of waste into municipal stormdrains and watercourses.
- **Municipal Plumbing Bylaws:** requirements for installation and maintenance of plumbing and drainage equipment.
- **Food Premises Regulation:** requirements for fixtures, equipment and procedures for cleaning and sanitizing cooking and serving equipment and utensils. (Island Health)
- **Provincial regulations,** e.g. BC Plumbing Code

