

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 other regulations can apply to handling and disposing of automotive waste?

- **Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw (CRD)**, which applies to the disposal of waste at Hartland landfill and recycling facility.
- **Municipal storm sewer bylaws**, which regulate the discharge of wastes into municipal stormdrains and watercourses.
- **Municipal plumbing bylaws**, which specify requirements for installation and maintenance of plumbing and drainage equipment.
- **Provincial regulations**, e.g. BC Plumbing Code and BC Environmental Management Act
- **Federal regulations**, e.g. Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations

Why are automotive shops a concern?

Automotive shops create waste and wastewater that can contain hazardous materials and contaminants.

Automotive shop wastewater can contain quantities of contaminants (e.g. solids, metals, oils, grease and chlorinated solvents) that exceed the levels allowed under the CRD Sewer Use Bylaw.

If handled incorrectly contaminants and hazardous wastes create environmental and public health hazards. They can harm aquatic life, destroy sensitive ecosystems and pollute recreational sites and water supplies, cause structural damage to the sanitary sewer system, storm drains and landfill (e.g. through plugging and corrosion) and may be unsafe if they come into contact with sewage or garbage workers.

What are some automotive hazardous wastes?

Oily rags, used oil filters, used batteries, products marked flammable, corrosive, explosive or poisonous.

What are automotive wastewater contaminants?

Oil, grease, solvents, antifreeze, brake fluid, fuel, toxic metals, and solids (e.g. sand, grit and metal particles) are some examples of common contaminants.

What types of automotive shops have to comply with the CRD Sewer Use Bylaw?

Any business or institution (e.g. schools) connected to the CRD sanitary sewer that involves work or service on vehicles (including airplanes and boats, engines and mechanical devices), such as:

- auto detailing
- collision repair shops
- engine repair and washing facilities
- marine repair operations
- mechanical repair shops
- oil change operations
- radiator repair shops
- service stations
- towing businesses
- vehicle dealerships
- vehicle maintenance facilities
- vehicle recycling operations

What if the shop is connected to a septic system?

There are specific requirements for septic systems but many of the best management practices are the same.

Has changing our actions made an environmental difference?

Yes, working together with government staff, local industries, businesses and institutions have greatly reduced the amount of contaminants entering the marine receiving environment.

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 are not removed or only partially removed by treatment; while other pollutants can be reactivated or negatively altered with wastewater treatment.

