

# Bathtub Restoration Operations



There is a concern about small amounts of paint stripping products containing dichloromethane (DCM, also known as methylene chloride) and etching products containing corrosive acids, entering the sanitary sewer from bathtub restoration operations throughout the capital region. DCM and corrosive acids can damage household and municipal sewer pipes and harm the marine environment. DCM is also classified as a probable carcinogen to humans.

In order to reduce the amount of DCM and corrosive acids entering our sanitary sewer system, please follow the best management practices on this card.



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1. Plug or cover all drains to prevent the discharge of paint stripping and etching chemicals to sewer.
2. Consider using non-dichloromethane-based stripping alternatives such as citrus or soy-based strippers and use manual stripping for more easily removed layers of paint.
3. Wipe down the stripped surface with water or lacquer thinner using a cloth or sponge instead of hosing down the surface with water. Place used scrubbing materials in a sealed container for proper disposal as hazardous waste.
4. Capture and reuse paint stripper where applicable.
5. Where applicable, use acid free bonding agents or milder acid solutions in place of strong corrosive acids to etch the bathtub surface.
6. Any acid rinse must be neutralized (adjusted to between pH 5.5 and pH 11) prior to discharge to sewer.
7. Keep lids on acid and paint stripper containers tightly closed at all times to prevent leaks, spills or evaporation to the atmosphere.
8. Detailed records should be kept for all hazardous waste disposal services used for dichloromethane-based paint stripping wastes, acid etching residues and other wastes from bathtub restoration activities, including wastes that are prohibited or restricted under Bylaw 2922.
9. Provide training in the handling and use of acids and paint strippers and ensure employees are familiar with health and safety documents.

For more information contact:

CRD Regional Source Control Program at **250.360.3256** or **sourcecontrol@crd.bc.ca** or visit **www.crd.bc.ca/sourcecontrol**