



City of Port Moody

Best Practices for Storm Drains

Stream and Drainage Protection Bylaw No. 3426, 2023

The City's Stream and Drainage Protection Bylaw prohibits any material (other than water) from entering the storm sewer system. Find the complete Bylaw at portmoody.ca/bylaws

Learn more



What are storm drains?

- Storm drains (including manholes, ditches, and catch basins) are entrances to the Port Moody storm sewer system.
- The storm sewer or 'drainage' system collects and transports rainwater, snow melt, and runoff from roads and driveways to reduce the potential for flooding.
- The storm sewer system includes ditches and underground pipes that empty into streams or the ocean. This means that **all storm drains lead to fish habitat!**
- The storm sewer system is different from the sanitary sewer system, which collects water from toilets, sinks, and shower drains and transports this water to a treatment plant.

Is stormwater clean or treated?

- The water carried through storm sewer system is **not** treated before it flows into aquatic habitat. However, the City's drainage system is equipped with oil-grit separators and sediment traps at select locations to reduce the amount of road contaminants and sand.

Does contaminated stormwater impact wildlife?

- Yes!** If a substance like oil, chlorinated water, paint, or soap enters a storm drain, it will flow directly into a creek, stream, or the ocean and impact fish and aquatic wildlife. This includes salmon, harbour seals, shorebirds, marine plants, and endangered species.
- Even large amounts of soil or sand entering our streams can suffocate and smother fish.

Should this go into a ditch or storm drain?

✓ Yes	
Water	
✗ No	
Oil or grease	Concrete wash
Soil or sand from landscaping or construction	Paint or household chemicals
Gasoline, diesel, or other fuels	Soap
Chlorinated pool water	



PORT MOODY *Naturally*

Do you need more information?

604.469.4574
 environment@portmoody.ca
 portmoody.ca/environment

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Common activities that may contaminate storm drains:

Power washing →	High-pressure cleaning can dislodge soils, paint chips, oils, and other residues that mix with outwash that flows to storm drains.
Car washing →	Sediments, oils, heavy metals, and cleaning products (detergents, soaps, solvents) may be generated from vehicle washing.
Draining swimming pools →	Chemical compounds such as chlorine, bromine, stain removers, and pH adjusters are used to maintain pool water quality.
Landscaping →	Soil, mulch, and fertilizers may wash into storm drains if not properly contained.
Construction →	Soil and sand are generated from excavation, oil is needed for machinery, and concrete is required for building foundations.
Vehicle repairs →	Engine and hydraulic oil, brake and washer fluid are some examples of chemicals needed for vehicle maintenance.
Other spills →	Accidental spills may flow over roads and into storm drains.

Tips and best management practices:

1. Identify

Before undertaking any activities that have the potential to release contaminated water into the storm sewer system, identify the locations of storm drains nearby the property. You can look outside for nearby storm drains or ditches along the road, or check out a map of the full storm sewer system on the City's online mapping system, [ViewPort](#). You can also contact City Operations to help you locate nearby storm drains at 604.469.4574.

2. Reduce

Aim to reduce the amount of water being used for any household activities that have the potential to release contaminated water into a storm drain. For example, opting to clean your car with a bucket and sponge rather than using a hose reduces the amount of water contaminated with soap, dirt, and other pollutants that must be dealt with.

3. Redirect and Capture

When it is not possible to significantly reduce the amount of water being used for an activity, redirect contaminated water away from storm drains, or capture the contaminants. For example, you can redirect soap or power-washing outwash to an area capable of absorbing water, such as grass lawns or gravel by using barriers like sandbags or sorbent booms. You can capture contaminants like outdoor paint or car oil using drip trays for proper disposal.

4. Report

Report any contamination of the storm sewer system, including pollution in creeks or Burrard Inlet, to City Operations at operations@portmoody.ca or 604.469.4574. If you witness a spill that poses an immediate threat to public health and safety, including spills of gasoline or diesel into the storm sewer system, call 9-1-1 and ask for Fire.

