

September 12, 2024

Background

The Engineering and Public Works Department has received a number of complaints regarding concrete products or wash water being discharged from trucks and development sites in the City of Coquitlam (City). This Engineering Bulletin serves to remind all concrete-related businesses in the City, about the City's expectations for operating responsibly around storm sewers to comply with regulations that protect our local watercourses.

Surface water runoff flows into the City's storm sewer system which ultimately drains to fish bearing streams. Any water that has been in contact with fresh concrete can have a high pH which can kill fish and other aquatic life. Federal, provincial and municipal regulations are in place to protect creeks and aquatic life prohibiting these types of discharges. Industry best practices can help you comply with these regulations, avoid costly fines, and prevent damage to our local environment.

City's Expectations for Concrete Business Operators

Cement Truck and Equipment Wash-Down Requirements

If you are working in the City of Coquitlam, you must keep any wash water related to concrete work on the site under development so that it can be collected and treated before discharge to the drainage system.

All concrete trucks operating in the City must be fitted with systems to recirculate chute wash water back into the truck for safe disposal back at the plant. The chute of a truck may be washed down on a City street at a safe location immediately adjacent to the site only when this equipment is used.

All other equipment must be washed down on-site and must not be washed on City streets. This includes tools, any surfaces of trucks used to transport or install concrete, and any spill containment equipment.

Costs associated with cleaning up concrete and wash water that has been allowed to flow into the City's drainage system may be charged back to the responsible parties and fines may also be issued.

Spill Prevention

Concrete spilled on City streets creates a safety hazard for drivers, pedestrians and the environment. Spills often occur at busy road junctions and on the steep hills common in the region as a result of overfilled trucks. Other spills are caused by a lack of spill containment during concrete delivery. All concrete business must ensure that they follow best practices to prevent these spills including controlling load sizes before

dispatch, use of spill containment during off-loading, and immediate spill clean-up. Costs associated with clean-up and road rehabilitation may be charged back to the responsible parties and fines may also be issued.

Enforcement

The City of Coquitlam *Stream and Drainage System Protection Bylaw No. 4403, 2013* prohibits discharge of deleterious substances, which includes concrete and concrete wash water, from entering the Drainage System.

Violations are subject to fines and remediation costs may be charged back to all responsible parties.

Resources:

For Further information on Best Management Practices contact Concrete BC

Web: <https://concretebc.ca/>

Email: concrete@concretebc.ca

Phone: 604-626-4141

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

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