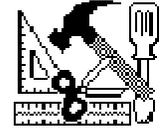




Fact sheet for GVRD Sewer Use Bylaw

HSE TOOL # 08



The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Sewer Use Bylaw No. 164, regulates pollutants that are discharged into sewers and drains. Protection of the environment and human health and safety are the first priorities of this bylaw. Although some contaminants are reduced during the primary treatment process at the sewage treatment plant, others pass through untouched and end up in the environment.

“By controlling the level of pollutants discharged into sewers and drains, the District can protect both the environment and its collection and treatment systems.”

Specific types of waste are either prohibited, outright, or restricted to an allowable concentration. *“Prohibited Wastes”* are wastes that can damage the sewer system and sewerage facilities or pose a threat to worker health and safety. The District emphasizes the treatment of waste, to the greatest degree possible, prior to discharge to sewer.

Prohibited Wastes are:

1. Flammable or Explosive Waste, which can cause/promote a fire or explosion in sewers or sewerage facilities.
2. Corrosive Waste, which can cause/promote corrosion and damage to sewers or sewerage facilities.
3. High Temperature Waste, above 65°C (150°F) or waste which will raise the influent temperature to sewerage facilities above 40°C (104°F).
4. Waste that obstructs or interferes with the flow in the sewers or sewerage facilities.
5. Pathogenic Waste, which contains infectious material that could threaten public and/or worker health & safety.
6. Odourous Waste, which can cause/promote odours that could threaten worker safety or cause air pollution.

Other wastes which are restricted or not appropriate for discharge to sanitary sewer are:

- ◆ Special Wastes as defined by the Provincial Special Waste Regulation.
- ◆ Radioactive Waste above the limitations set by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada.



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- ◆ Uncontaminated cooling water.
- ◆ Uncontaminated storm water.

Waste that can damage the environment or interfere with the operation of the sewers and sewerage facilities are classified as “*Restricted Waste*”.

Restricted Waste exceeding the following criteria may not be discharged to the sewer.

NOTE: Dilution of waste for the purpose of meeting concentration limits is not allowed.

Aluminum	50.0 mg/L	Zinc	3.0 mg/L
Arsenic	1.0 mg/L	Boron	50.0 mg/L
Cadmium	0.2 mg/L	Chlorophenols	0.05 mg/L
Chromium	4.0 mg/L	Cyanide	1.0 m/L
Cobalt	5.0 mg/L	Phenols	1.0 mg/L
Copper	2.0 mg/L	Oil & Grease (Total)	150 mg/L
Iron	10.0 mg/L	Oil & Grease (Petroleum)	15 mg/L
Lead	1.0 mg/L	Sulphate	1500 mg/L
Manganese	5.0 mg/L	Sulphide	1.0 mg/L
Mercury	0.05 mg/L	Suspended Solids	600 mg/L
Molybdenum	1.0 mg/L	BOD 5	500-1000 mg/L
Nickel	2.0 mg/L	Food Waste	0.5 cm in size
Selenium	1.0 mg/L	pH Range	5.5-12.0
Silver	1.0 mg/L		

***Please contact UBC’s Environmental Programs Officer (604-822-9280) for further information on Restricted and Prohibited Waste, and waste treatment.**

Several times a year, Environmental Programs hires an outside Environmental Consultant to test the University’s two main discharge points for compliance with the GVRD Sewer Use Bylaw.