

Drainage Inspections

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional

Equipment That You May Need

- Flow Monitoring Points (Inspection Manholes) on each sewer pipe leaving your property.
- Oil and grease interceptor at premises where commercial or institutional food preparation takes place.
- Oil, grease and sand interceptor at premises in which equipment or vehicles are serviced, repaired or washed.
- Containment systems and special drainage arrangements for area with a high potential for fuel, oil or chemical spillage.
- Wastewater pre-treatment equipment to bring concentrations below the bylaw limits.
- Wastewater screening systems to prevent objects larger than 20 mm from entering the sewer system.
- Neutralization systems for acidic or basic wastewater.
- Metering on non-City water supplies.
- Hazardous waste detection devices/alerts on sewer lines.

Need more information?

Edmonton Industrial Wastewater Control Unit
780-496-4347 or 780-496-8971.

Other useful contacts:

Edmonton Information
311

Alberta Environment Education and Information Centre
780-427-2700

Alberta Used Oil Recycling Program
1-888-922-2298

Alberta Government Environment Emergency Line
1-800-222-6514

Or visit our website at www.edmonton.ca/drainage



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Drainage Services

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

ASSET MANAGEMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS

Drainage Branch Inspectors

The City of Edmonton has bylaws in place to control the use of the municipal sewer system. The Sewers Use Bylaw (9675) specifies what can or cannot be released into the sanitary and storm sewer systems. The Sewers Bylaw (9425) sets out connection requirements for the sewer system, including various types of interceptors. It's the job of Drainage Branch Inspectors (Bylaw Enforcement Officers) to enforce these bylaws. They do this by monitoring and inspecting more than 2,000 industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector facilities each year and by responding to spills and complaints.

Inspections

The Municipal Government Act gives these Inspectors the right to conduct a drainage inspection of any ICI sector facility in Edmonton with reasonable notice and at any reasonable time. Inspectors carry photo identification and are often in uniform identifying them as Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

The purpose of an inspection is to ensure nothing hazardous to human health or the environment, or any material that could damage sewer or wastewater treatment plant infrastructure, is being released into the sewer system. Violators risk City fines of up to \$10,000, payment of any needed repairs and discontinuance of service. In addition, provincial investigators may be involved if necessary.

On-site inspections also give bylaw officers the opportunity to raise awareness and provide information regarding the safe disposal of waste and storm water.

What These Inspectors Look For

Inspectors will want to review any place where wastewater, including outdoor runoff, drains into the sanitary or storm water sewer systems, a ditch or watercourse. This review includes looking at all drainage features on-site including floor and roof drains, sumps, washrooms, grease traps, interceptors, processes, chemicals and chemical storage areas and outdoor features such as catch basins. To help in the inspection, an Inspector may request a copy of the building plan, disposal records and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

The Sewers Use Bylaw outlines all of the restrictions regarding release of wastewater including storm water. Key restrictions to the drainage system include:

- No hazardous material including paint, solvents, oil, flammables, heavy metals, chemicals or other materials harmful to the environment.
- No sawdust, glue, grease, glass, paper, straw, cement mix, sand (sanitary only), cloth, sharp objects or other materials that may damage or plug drainage pipes or equipment.
- No material that is corrosive or radioactive.

A key restriction to the storm sewer system is:

- No wastewater other than storm water, subsurface water or clear water waste, and certain other specified wastewater that does not contain hazardous, prohibited or restricted materials.

Handling waste responsibly

Everyone can play an important role in preventing contaminants from entering the sewer systems. Understanding and abiding by bylaw restrictions will help protect the environment and reduce sewer systems maintenance repair and operation costs.

All wastes that cannot be discharged in the sewer systems should be collected and removed to an appropriate waste disposal site. In some cases, you may have to install interceptors or treatment equipment on-site to remove undesirable substances from wastewater before it is released.

Waste disposal contractors are listed in the Yellow Pages under Environmental Products and Services, Waste Disposal or Recycling.

All bylaw requirements and restrictions can be found at:

www.edmonton.ca
or you can call 311.

>> See diagram inside

Key to Diagram

- A** Have a competent contractor remove hazardous or oily wastes and dispose them in an approved manner. Do not dump these materials into indoor or outdoor drains, sinks, sumps, cleanouts or any other plumbing fixture. Ask the contractor to provide documentation of proper disposal.
- B** Have containment around any outdoor area where fuel, oil or chemical spills or leaks can occur to prevent these materials from entering a storm catch basin, ditch or watercourse. Use containment dikes, walls, trays or curbs. Collect and dispose of the water from these containment devices in an indoor drain if the concentrations meet Sewers Use Bylaw levels. It is not permissible to pump rainfall collected within the containment wall onto the ground or into a ditch or catch basin (J).
- C** Outdoor drum storage of wastes or new product should also be in containment to prevent spills or leakage from entering the storm sewer and river. It is not permissible to pump rainfall collected within the containment wall onto the ground or into a ditch or catch basin (J).
- D** Inside chemical or liquid product storage should also be within containment to prevent spills from entering floor drains or sumps.
- E** Do not use an in-floor separator/interceptor/sump to dispose of water-soluble materials (antifreeze), solvents, fuels or large amounts of oil. The separator captures minor drippings of oil and sand and needs regular cleaning.
- F** The purpose of roof drains or leaders is to drain rainwater and snowmelt from the rooftops to connect into the storm sewer system. Do not remove the covers from cleanouts or tap into these pipes for the disposal of any other types of wastes. These pipes lead directly to the river!
- G** Interior floor drains usually connect into the sanitary sewer system. Ensure wastes do not drain to storm sewers. Do not dispose of oil, grease, solvents and hazardous waste in the sanitary sewer, as they are prohibited substances in storm sewers.
- H** Self-contained parts washers and other types of equipment fluid reservoirs are often provided with some type of fluid cleaning device. Equipment of this type should be cleaned into recycle/hazardous waste drums and removed by a waste contractor to an approved disposal location. Do not clean this equipment to a floor sump or drain.
- I** Toilets, sinks and showers connect into sanitary sewers. Do not dispose of chemicals, solvents, oil and other industrial wastes in these fixtures.
- J** Most industrial or commercial properties have a yard or parking area serviced by a storm catch basin. This grated device allows the drainage of storm runoff and snow melt from the property while trapping sand, sediment and small quantities of oil drippings. Clean them regularly. Do not allow chemical, fuel or oil spills to enter the catch basin. Have a spill mat on hand to cover the catch basin in the event of a spill. Never intentionally drain substances other than storm runoff and snowmelt into a catch basin because they flow directly into the river.
- K** Most newer commercial and industrial premises have a sanitary inspection manhole on the sanitary sewer line leaving the property. The City uses these manholes for inspection and monitoring of wastewater discharges and by the owner for line cleaning. Do not park on top of or obstruct access to this manhole.
- L** This manhole is to monitor wastewater flowing in the storm sewer similar to K above. If illegal disposal of wastewater is occurring into roof leaders (See F above) or catch basins (See J above), City Inspectors may detect the offending releases here or in the street sewers downstream. The City makes every effort to track down such releases and prosecute offenders.

