

Interceptors

Some industrial and commercial properties have interceptors such as oil and grit separators, which collect and separate contaminants and obstructive materials to improve storm water quality. The Bylaw requires the regular maintenance of interceptors to ensure optimum performance.

Drainage and Dewatering Permits

A permit is legally required before allowing any impounded water from a parcel of land to be directed into The City's storm drainage system. This includes draining ponds on private land and draining excavations during construction.

Report unlawful discharges: it's your responsibility

The Bylaw now obligates the responsible party to report and mitigate any unauthorized discharge of prohibited materials whether accidental or intentional.

What happens if you don't comply with the Drainage Bylaw?

Failure to comply with the Drainage Bylaw could result in:

- contaminants or pollutants being released into our rivers
- obstructions in the storm drainage system (e.g. blocked swales or sewer backup in the pipe system); and
- flooding.

Failure to comply with the Drainage Bylaw can also result in fines ranging from \$75 to \$10,000 and/or remedial orders.

Who should I contact to report a breach of the Bylaw?

Call The City of Calgary's 3-1-1 to report the incident.



Where do I go for more information?

Call 3-1-1 or visit our website at www.calgary.ca/waterservices (click Water & Wastewater Systems, then click Storm Drainage System).



THE CITY OF
CALGARY
WATER SERVICES

Drainage Bylaw



THE CITY OF
CALGARY

The Drainage Bylaw

As of September 1, 2005, the new Drainage Bylaw 37M2005 came into effect for Calgary. The updated Bylaw regulates the storm drainage system by requiring that both the public and industry manage drainage and water quality.

This Bylaw applies to everyone: residents, business owners, workers in residential or commercial construction, or any industry within The City of Calgary.

Why is a drainage bylaw necessary?

The storm drainage system is a network of drains, pipes and ponds designed to channel storm water directly to our rivers. Everything you wash down the storm drains such as trash, pesticides, soil, and chemicals ends up in our rivers.

What we do to manage and control the substances and materials that enter our drainage system does make a difference and will have a positive impact on the quality and quantity of storm water entering our rivers.

What are some of the main points of the Bylaw?

Downspouts

The Bylaw requires downspouts to end at least two metres away from any sidewalk, road, park, alley, lane or surface drainage facility. The two-metre buffer zone allows some of the run-off to absorb into the ground before it enters the storm system. It also helps prevent icing on sidewalks and lanes in winter. Downspouts should never be connected to the weeping tile of your house or building.

Surface Drainage Facilities

Surface Drainage Facilities include concrete swales (channels or gutters), grassed swales and walkways. The Bylaw requires Surface Drainage Facilities to be kept clear of debris and obstructions at all times. Retaining walls, terraces, gardens, play areas or sheds cannot be constructed or placed in this area.

In a heavy rainstorm it is possible for these systems to flow full of rainwater, and any obstructions in the flow could cause flooding.

Concrete swales commonly run along the back or side of residential properties. If a fence must be built over a concrete swale, you must provide at least 0.15 metres (6 inches) of clearance between the bottom of the fence and the top of the swale. (See Figure 1)

Prohibited Materials

To protect the quality of storm water entering our rivers and to avoid obstructions, certain materials and contaminants are prohibited from entering the storm drainage system. For example:

- soil, sediment or other solid matter (including yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings).
- cooking oils and grease
- gasoline, motor oil, transmission fluid and antifreeze
- solvents and paints
- water from pools and hot tubs
- industrial waste

- soaps or detergents (including biodegradable products)
- pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers
- cement/concrete waste
- sawdust and construction materials
- any substance or combination of substances that emit an odour.

Can I still wash my car in the driveway or street?

The City recommends using a commercial car wash to clean your vehicle. Commercial car washes drain to the City's wastewater treatment facility where the wastewater is cleaned and treated.

If you do wash your car in the driveway or street, you cannot use soap. Use water only and ensure that dirt or oil from your car does not get washed down the storm drain.

