

# Discharge Limits and Prohibited Substances - Storm Sewers

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[Sewer Use By-law 2003-514](#)

Storm sewers are designed to capture and carry surface run-off to the nearest creek, stream or river. Discharges into storm sewers can create environmental problems since the discharges go directly into waterways, generally without treatment.

## Prohibited substances

Discharges to storm sewers include the contamination of stormwater run-off from industrial process areas. The following materials are prohibited from being discharged or directed into storm sewers\*:

- A matter of any type, at any temperature, or in any quantity, which may
  - Damage a storm sewer
  - Interfere with the proper operation of a storm sewer
  - Obstruct a storm sewer or its flow
  - Result in a hazard to any person, animal, property or vegetation;
  - Impair the quality of the water in any well, lake, river, pond, spring, stream, reservoir, or other water or watercourse
  - Result in the contravention of an approval issued under the Ontario Water Resources Act or the Environmental Protection Act with respect to the storm sewer or its discharge
- Dyes or colouring material that may discolour water\*
- Matter with a visible sheen or discolouration
- Matter consisting of two or more separate layers
- The following materials or hazardous waste:
  - Acute hazardous waste chemicals

- Automotive or machine oils and greases
- Biomedical waste
- Blowdown water
- Carpet cleaner waste
- Combustible liquid
- Concrete mixtures
- Fuels
- Hauled liquid waste
- Hazardous industrial waste
- Hazardous waste chemicals
- Ignitable waste
- Material from a groundwater remediation system
- Nuclear waste
- Organic solvents
- Pathological waste
- Paints
- PCBs
- PCB waste
- Pesticides
- Reactive waste
- Severely toxic materials
- Sewage
- Sludge
- Waste disposal site leachate

- Waste generated by an industrial process

**\*Note:** The discharge of some of these substances may be permissible, but only when authorization has been given by the City and specific conditions are met. For more information, please contact a representative of the Sewer Use Program at 613-580-2424 ext. 23326 or refer to [Sewer Use By-law 2003-514](#).

## Restricted substances (discharge limits)

Discharge limits are maximum concentrations which are established to minimize interferences to the natural environment. Facilities must ensure that their discharge does not exceed these limits. Dilution cannot be used to meet the discharge limits.

### Limits for storm sewers discharge

#### Legend:

- **mg/L** - milligrams/litre (parts per million)
- **ug/L** - micrograms/litre (parts per billion)
- **mL** – millilitre
- **C** - Celsius

**Table 1 - Limits for storm sewers discharge**

Parameter	Limit (mg/L)
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	25
Cyanide (total)	0.02
Phenolics (4AAP)	0.008
Phosphorus (total)	0.4
Suspended Solids (total)	15

Arsenic (total)	0.02
Cadmium (total)	0.008
Chromium (total)	0.08
Copper (total)	0.04
Lead (total)	0.12
Manganese (total)	0.05
Mercury (total)	0.0004
Nickel (total)	0.08
Selenium (total)	0.02
Silver (total)	0.12
Zinc (total)	0.04
Benzene	0.002
Chloroform	0.002
1,2-dichlorobenzene	0.0056
1,4-dichlorobenzene	0.0068

Cis-1,2-dichloroethylene	0.0056
Trans-1,3-dichloropropylene	0.0056
Ethylbenzene	0.002
Methylene chloride	0.0052
1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	0.017
Tetrachloroethylene	0.0044
Toluene	0.002
Trichloroethylene	0.0076
Xylene (total)	0.0044
Naphthalene	0.0064
Hexachlorobenzene	0.00004
Nonylphenols	0.001
Nonylphenol ethoxylates	0.01
PCBs	0.0004
Total PAHs	0.006



Temperature	40°C
pH	6-9 pH units

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