

Sanitary and Storm Sewer Use

Automotive Garage Best Management Practices



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF

ST. THOMAS

Environmental Services Department
545 Talbot Street
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5P 3V7

Phone: 631-1680 (Ext. 4169)



Sewer Use Facts

There are two types of municipal sewers that may be servicing your garage.

1. **Sanitary sewers** are connected to your garage's bathroom facilities, and floor drains. These sewers carry sanitary wastes to an interceptor then to a treatment plant before releasing them to the environment.
2. **Storm sewers** carry rainwater from the area surrounding your garage directly into a river stream or lake without treatment.

Did You Know?

- Absolutely nothing is allowed to be washed down the **storm sewer** outside your garage or in the roadway. This includes any solids, soaps, degreasers and car fluids that may be present.
- Your garage's sanitary sewer must be fitted with an oil interceptor.
- Properly designed and maintained interceptors can remove up to 98% of oil and solids if properly maintained.
- Provincial law states that the service station operator must have a current written agreement for the collection and management of wastes with an approved carrier. These wastes should be disposed of on a regular basis.

The Sewer Use By-law



The City of St. Thomas controls all waste discharges to municipal sewers, sanitary or storm through **By-Law No. 205-91**.

This By-Law places strict limits on the discharge of specific materials to both sanitary and storm sewers.

By-Law 205-91 is enforced by the Pollution Control section of the City of St. Thomas and inspectors have the right to visit and inspect any sanitary or storm sewer servicing your garage.

Fines



Personal

- First Time Offence: \$ 10, 000.
- Second Time Offence: \$ 25, 000.

Corporation

- First Time Offence: \$ 50, 000.
- Second Time Offence: \$ 100, 000.

Contacts

*For more
information call:*

- City of St. Thomas

**Pollution Control -
Spill Response**

(519) 631-1680 x 4169

- MOECC

**Ministry of the
Environment and
Climate Change**

1-519-873-5000

MOECC Spills Action Centre

1-800-268-6060

Storm Sewer

Best Management Practices	Explanation
1. Plug all floor drains servicing your garage that may be connected to the storm sewer.	This will prevent any waste liquids from entering the storm sewer and reaching the environment from within your garage.
2. While cleaning the floor in your shop make sure that all waste water generated is entering the sanitary drains that are connected to your facility's oil interceptor.	Water that is washed into the sanitary drains will run through your interceptor. Water washed into the parking lot will carry waste liquids into the storm drains and eventually into the environment.
3. Conduct all vehicle repairs indoors or under cover.	Doing this will prevent accidental spills and leaks from entering the storm sewer system directly or in rain water runoff.
4. Install a canopy, and curbing around all storage areas and make sure that all storage containers are properly sealed and maintained.	Properly equipped storage areas where storage containers are well maintained limit the risk of spills and costly environmental cleanups.
5. Any discharge to a storm sewer must be reported immediately to the municipality and the Ministry of the Environment.	Precautions must be taken to prevent any discharges to the sewer from reaching the environment.
6. Keep a clean organized shop and label and post signs informing employees on hazardous wastes and proper disposal.	A well organized shop with signs posted will cut down on the number of accidental discharges to the sewer systems.
7. Educate your employees on proper use of the sanitary and storm sewer systems servicing your facility.	If an employee knows the proper way of disposing of vehicle wastes, they are less likely to pour or wash it down the sewer.

Oil Interceptor/Sanitary Sewer

Best Management Practices	Explanation
1. Your garage should have a working oil interceptor, as well as scheduled maintenance and cleanouts of oils and solids from this interceptor.	Once an interceptor reaches a certain capacity it loses its high level of efficiency.
2. Use "dry" methods of cleaning up spills in the garage or at the pumps. If wash water must be use, it should be directed into the garages sanitary drainage grates connected to your interceptor.	Using dry methods of cleanup prevents contaminants from entering the sewer systems. Washing contaminants into your garage's sanitary interceptor will separate the contaminant and allow water to pass.
3. Keep detailed records on dates of interceptor inspections, cleanouts and any spills that have occurred.	This information will assist you in staying up to date on cleanouts and will provide information on spill risks.
4. Never pour vehicle fluids or other hazardous wastes into sinks, toilets, floor drains, storm drains or your garbage. These substances should be collected for safe disposal.	Using a licensed liquid waste hauler to dispose of automotive wastes is the law, preventing health and safety hazards as well as contamination of the collection and treatment system.
5. Try recycling solvents, paints, oil filters, antifreeze, motor oil, batteries and lubricants.	Recycling these materials can not only save your garage money, but can be an effective method in preventing these substances from entering city sewer systems or the environment.

