SEWER USE BY-LAW

PROTECTING OUR SEWER SYSTEM STARTS WITH PROPER DISPOSAL.
The City of St. Thomas regulates discharges to municipal sanitary and storm sewers under By-Law No. 82-2024. The By-Law places limits on materials that may be discharged to municipal sewers and is enforced by the City's Pollution Control section.

Pollution Control inspectors have the right to inspect sanitary or storm sewers servicing your industrial business.

FINES

Personal
First Time Offence: $ 10,000
Second Time Offence: $ 25,000
Corporation
First Time Offence: $ 50,000
Second Time Offence: $ 100,000



SPILL RESPONSE CONTACT NUMBERS

City of St. Thomas Pollution Control
Spill Response
519-631-1098 X 6222

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks
1-519-873-5000
Spills Action Centre:
1-800-268-6060

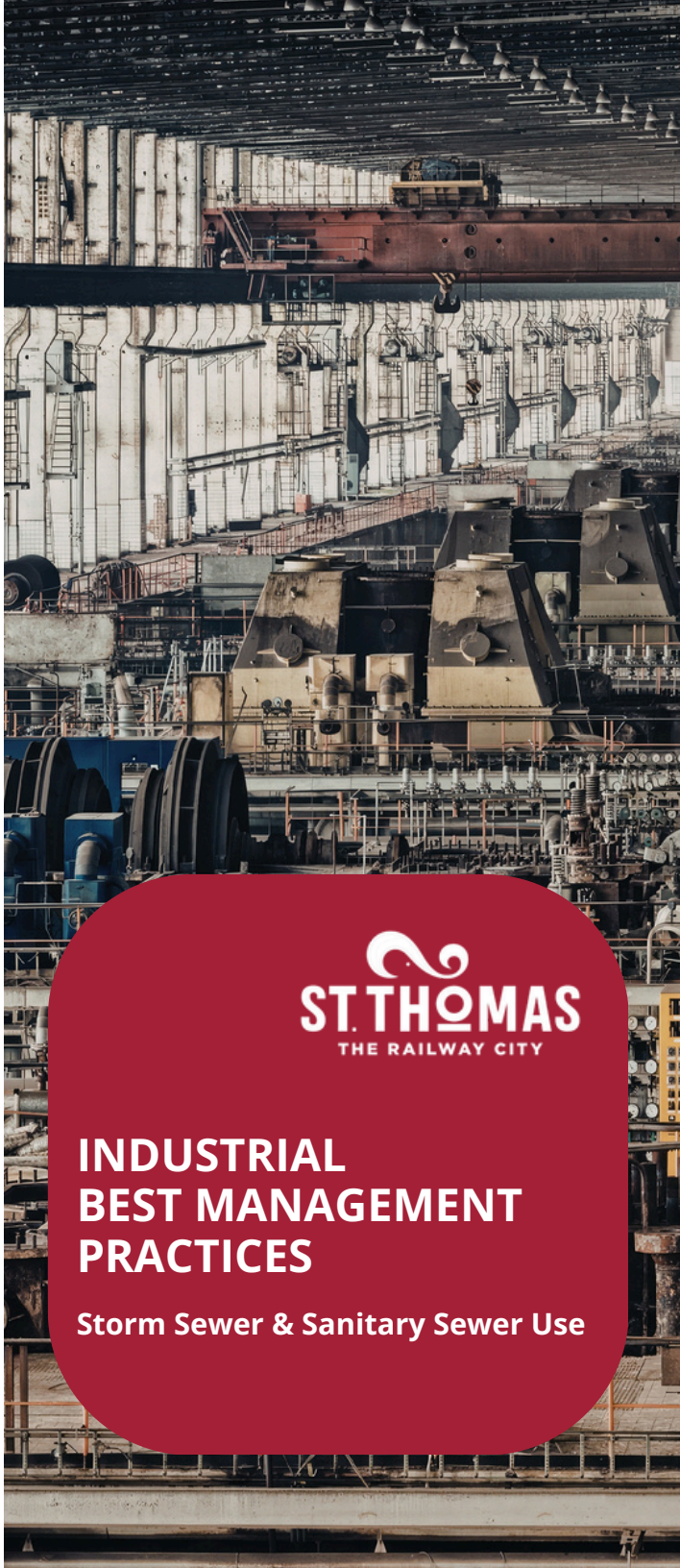
QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION?

(t) 519-631-1098 x 6222
clacroix@stthomas.ca

Mailing Address:
Environmental Services
PO Box 520
545 Talbot St.
St. Thomas, ON
N5P 3V7

Scan the QR code for more information about sewer use and spill prevention.

ST. THOMAS
THE RAILWAY CITY



ST. THOMAS
THE RAILWAY CITY

INDUSTRIAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Storm Sewer & Sanitary Sewer Use

SEWER USE FACTS

There are 2 types of municipal sewers that may be servicing your industrial business:

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from sinks, floor drains, equipment wash water, and industrial processes. This wastewater flows to a treatment plant, where it is treated before being released into the environment. Some industrial discharges may require pretreatment before entering the sanitary sewer.

Storm sewers collect rainwater and snowmelt from areas around your facility, including parking lots, loading docks, and outdoor storage areas. Stormwater often flows directly into rivers, streams, or lakes without treatment, making it important to keep pollutants, chemicals, and oils out of storm drains.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the event of a spill to any City sewer, notify the City immediately and submit a report within five days outlining the cause and actions taken to prevent recurrence.
- Industrial facilities must have an inspection manhole at each sanitary sewer connection to the City's sewer system.
- Liquid industrial waste must be registered with the Ministry of the Environment and cannot be stored on-site for more than 90 days.
- Under By-law 82-2024, industrial facilities must keep their Waste Survey Report up to date.
- Only rainwater may enter storm sewers. Solids, soaps, chemicals, and oils are prohibited and may result in an offence under By-law 82-2024.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1. DEVELOP A SPILL PREVENTION PLAN

What to do: Maintain a BMP plan with spill prevention procedures, employee responsibilities, training records, response plans, and cleanup contractor contacts.
Why it matters: A clear plan helps employees respond quickly and prevents spills from reaching storm or sanitary sewers.

2. STORE MATERIALS IN PROTECTED AREAS

What to do: Store materials indoors when possible. For outdoor storage, use covered areas with paved, impermeable floors and appropriate containment.
Why it matters: Rainwater can carry chemicals, oils, and other pollutants into storm drains and nearby waterways.

3. PROTECT OUTDOOR STORAGE TANKS

What to do: Install overflow protection and secondary containment around outdoor storage tanks. Inspect tanks regularly for leaks or damage.
Why it matters: Containment helps prevent spills from reaching soil, storm drains, and nearby water bodies.

4. PROTECT STORM DRAINS AND MANAGE OILY CONDENSATE

What to do: Prevent spills and wash water from entering storm drains. Collect oily condensate from air compressors for approved disposal or authorized discharge.
Why it matters: Storm sewers often discharge directly into waterways without treatment, allowing pollutants to harm aquatic life.

5. USE APPROVED VEHICLE WASHING FACILITIES

What to do: Wash industrial vehicles and equipment at commercial facilities with approved wastewater disposal systems. Avoid washing near storm drains.
Why it matters: Vehicle washing can release oil, grease, fuel, and dirt into storm sewers and the environment.

6. DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY

What to do: Store and label hazardous waste appropriately and use authorized waste disposal providers. Never pour prohibited wastes into drains.
Why it matters: Hazardous waste can harm workers, damage sewer infrastructure, and disrupt wastewater treatment.

7. CONSIDER ON-SITE WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT

What to do: Assess whether on-site wastewater pretreatment is suitable for your operations. Consult the local wastewater authority about requirements and discharge limits.
Why it matters: Pretreatment can reduce pollutants before wastewater enters the sanitary sewer, helping protect treatment systems.

8. MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT AND LEAK PREVENTION SYSTEMS

What to do: Use and regularly clean fine-mesh basket strainers in kitchen sink drains.
Why it matters: Strainers capture food particles before they enter the sanitary sewer.

9. POST "NO GREASE" SIGN

What to do: Place reminders above sinks and in food preparation areas.
Why it matters: Clear reminders encourage staff to follow proper disposal practices and help prevent grease from entering drains.

10. DISPOSE OF WASTE RESPONSIBLY

What to do: Arrange regular collection of waste grease through an appropriate recycler or approved waste carrier, and maintain any required written collection agreements.
Why it matters: Proper waste disposal reduces sewer blockages, protects the environment and may provide recycling or collection savings.