

# Commercial Painting Wastewater Information Handout

Commercial painting facilities must adhere to The City of Calgary Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012 and The City of Calgary Stormwater Bylaw 37M2005. Use these tips to comply with regulatory requirements, lower fees and protect your business, the community and the environment.

## Considerations for wastewater disposal

- It is prohibited to discharge paint waste or wastewater into the stormwater system.
- Solids must be diverted to a solids waste stream unless the materials are considered hazardous, in which case they shall be sent to an appropriate treatment facility.
- Visit [calgary.ca/hhw](http://calgary.ca/hhw) or contact 311 for the hazardous materials disposal requirements.

## Management practices to safely dispose of generated wastewater

### Latex and water-based paints

- Unused paint must be disposed of at a paint waste drop-off facility and cannot be discharged into the wastewater or stormwater system, or in the garbage
- Wash water used to clean brushes can go down a drain connected to the wastewater system, provided only soap and water is used
- Dried paint and empty paint cans can be disposed of a designated firehall or City landfill Throw 'n' Go area.

### Oil-Based Paint

- Unused paint must be disposed of at a paint waste drop-off facility and cannot be discharged into the wastewater or stormwater system, or in the garbage.
- Paint thinner and oil-based paint waste cannot be disposed of in the garbage or discharged into the wastewater or stormwater system.

## Wastewater Bylaw 14M2012 Fines for Non-Compliance

*18(1) Failing to dispose of wastewater from a premises into either the wastewater system or a private wastewater system*

**Specified Penalty \$1000**

*22(1)(a) Releasing, or allowing the release of wastewater that contains a prohibited substance into the wastewater system*

**Specified Penalty \$3000**

*22(1)(b) Releasing, or allowing the release of wastewater into the wastewater system that contains a substance that is over the concentration limit as described in Column 2 of Schedule "B" or Column 2 of Schedule "C"*

**Specified Penalty \$3000**

*43(6) Failing to comply with a Remedial Order*

**Specified Penalty \$1000**

## How to dispose of paint

### *Residential:*

Full, empty, and dry paint cans (water-based and oil-based) are accepted in Household Hazardous Waste programs. A total of 20 liters of household chemicals can be accepted per week, free of charge, at any of the City Landfill Throw 'N' Go areas or at a designated fire station. Household hazardous waste must be properly labeled and packaged:

- Leave the leftover household hazardous waste in the original container or make sure it is clearly labelled indicating the contents.
- Leftover household hazardous waste should be packaged securely in a sealed, spill-proof container.

### *Commercial:*

The East Calgary Landfill accepts commercial paint at one of two locations within the landfill, depending on the quantity. Smaller quantities are placed at the Throw 'N' Go area. Large quantities are placed at the paint transfer station. Commercial paint businesses are responsible for appropriate packaging and unloading of all materials.

## What to do if you have an accidental release

In the event of an unintentional release it is important to act quickly to prevent the material from entering the wastewater or stormwater system.

The Wastewater Bylaw section 35 under "Release Reporting" requires the person who released or allowed the release to notify:

- The City of Calgary by contacting 311 as well as the Industrial Monitoring Group at [img@calgary.ca](mailto:img@calgary.ca)
- The owner of the premise where the release occurred.
- Any other person that may be affected by the release.

For any spills that could harm the environment you will also need to report the spill to Alberta Environment.

**For more information please contact 311 or the Industrial Monitoring Group at [img@calgary.ca](mailto:img@calgary.ca)**