



Dumpster Management

IN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Dumpsters can be a major source of pollutants that can affect area water quality. Dumpsters are often left open to the air, allowing rainwater to mix with the trash, resulting in a leaking fluid, or “dumpster juice” that can contain toxic organic and inorganic materials.

If not treated, this dumpster juice can enter the storm drain system, contributing to poor water quality. In addition, dumpster storage areas are often unsightly, can contribute to higher populations of vermin, and have unpleasant odours associated with them.



Examples of uncovered dumpsters with evidence of leakage and “dumpster juice” trails leading to nearby storm drain inlets.

Pollution prevention opportunities include:

- Locate dumpsters in secure areas to prevent illegal dumping.
- Locate dumpsters on a flat concrete surface that does not slope or drain to the storm drain system.
- Install a secondary containment system such as a berm or curb around the dumpster if it is close to the storm drain.
- Install protective covers or lids to keep rainfall from accumulating in the dumpster or secondary containment area.
- Close lids at dumpsters located at vehicle service areas, fast food restaurants, and convenience stores.
- Install an oil and grease separator or sump pit for dumpsters that receive waste with a high moisture content.
- Place clear and visible signs on dumpsters indicating what kind of waste can be accepted.
- Never throw oil and grease or other liquids into a dumpster - provide alternative disposal locations for impermissible substances.
- Close and secure lids properly when the dumpster is not being loaded or unloaded.
- Empty dumpsters frequently to prevent overfilling or storage outside the dumpster.
- Repair leaking or damaged dumpsters immediately.
- Never use bleach and soap to clean the container unless the wash water is sent to the sanitary sewer system.
- Pick up and sweep trash and litter from around the dumpster regularly.
- If you use a service provider, add language to protect water quality in the maintenance contract.
- Consider adding secondary containment around dumpsters.

The intent of this factsheet is to provide guidance only and if there is any discrepancy between the factsheet and current versions of applicable Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations and/or Municipal By-laws, the Acts, Regulations and/or By-laws take precedence. Since this document is only meant to be a guidance document, site specific analysis of each facility is required to identify the most effective pollution prevention measures. CVC accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury whatsoever to any person or property using the factsheet.