

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Spill Containment

What is spill containment and is it necessary?

Spill containment or secondary containment is a system that will prevent any materials or spills from polluting the sanitary sewer and the receiving environment, as defined in the *City of Abbotsford Sewer Regulations Bylaw No. 2664-2017*. Your business is required to safely contain products such as oils, solvents, brake fluid, batteries, paints, coolants, amalgam, silver, tetrachloroethylene (PERC), etc.

What qualifies as acceptable spill containment?

All containment structures must be able to sufficiently hold 110% of the largest volume of product in order to safely contain the substance should a spill occur. Spill containment should also be protected from vehicle contact. These measures ensure the wastes are contained within the shop or spill containment system, and would not pollute the receiving environment and the sanitary sewer.

Examples of acceptable spill containment:



Drum Containment



Double-walled Containers



Hard-walled Containers



Pallet Containment



Flexible Containment



Fixed Containment

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Does my shop qualify as spill containment?

The following must be met in order for the shop to act as spill containment:

1. The floor area must be sloped away from exits;
2. The shop must be able to sufficiently contain 110% of the largest volume of any product that could potentially enter the sanitary sewer; and
3. The shop should not have any access to the sanitary sewer (i.e. dry shop). If drains are present, these must be capped. For more information, please refer to the FAQ on Dry Shops and Capping Drains.

Will spill containment systems be inspected by the City?

Yes. City staff inspects treatment works as part of the annual site visit inspection.

Who do I contact if I have any further questions?

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