



# STATE OF VERMONT

## CANNABIS OPERATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PERMIT GUIDELINES



### ARE YOU APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO OPERATE A RETAIL, PROCESSING, OR CULTIVATION OPERATION FOR CANNABIS?

Having a properly designed water supply and wastewater system will protect the environment and allow your business to grow! This fact sheet provides basic information about how and when to obtain a Water Supply & Wastewater Permit (WW Permit), along with frequently asked questions.

### WHY MIGHT I NEED A WASTEWATER/DRINKING WATER PERMIT?

Unless you are a home-based business with no employees, a WW Permit may be required for a cannabis operation. WW Permits ensure that excessive nutrients and pathogens don't harm groundwater and human health. If you have an existing WW Permit for a property, you should read and understand your requirements, including inspection requirements and restrictions.

### CULTIVATORS

When using a municipal water supply or wastewater system, applicants must submit a letter from the utility certifying their capacity to provide a sufficient quantity/treatment for water and/or wastewater to the physical site of operation. Indoor cultivators must identify whether their water supply and wastewater systems need to comply with any portion of the WW Rules. Tier 5 and 6 cultivator applicants may also have additional requirements to obtain a WW Permit (see section 1.5.2 of [Cannabis Control Board Rules](#)). Water remaining from reverse osmosis waste, dehumidifiers, and water collection from other cultivation methods needs to be properly disposed in accordance with the WW Rules. Please speak with a VT Licensed Water and Wastewater Designer for more information: <https://bit.ly/vtlicenseddesigner>.



### RETAIL

Design flows are typically based on the retail establishment square footage. If the space you are utilizing was previously permitted as a retail space, and changes are not being made, a WW Permit amendment would not be required. If the space was previously used for something other than retail or you are expanding the operation, a WW Permit amendment may be needed. Please speak with a VT Licensed Water and Wastewater Designer for more information.



### PROCESSOR

Cannabis processors may have certain flow and design requirements to meet according to the WW Rules. State Regional Engineers will need accurate design plans that show all of the piping for wastewater systems (i.e. floor drains or similar). An emergency discharge system also needs to be in place for closed loop systems. Other considerations include shower/restroom facilities and the number of employees at the location. Please speak with a VT Licensed Water and Wastewater Designer for more information.



## FAQS

**1. My town has no zoning, do I still need a WW Permit?** Unless you are entirely home-based operation with no employees you will need a valid WW Permit even if your town has no zoning.

**2. Does a cultivation setup require a WW Permit?** Yes, unless you are entirely home-based operation with no employees. Varying techniques still require review by a state engineer. Different grow mediums still produce waste and may require a WW Permit.

**3. Where can I get a copy of the WW Rules?** A copy of the rules are available online at: <https://bit.ly/vtwwrules>

**4. Who can prepare a WW Permit Application?** A State of Vermont Licensed Wastewater/Water Supply Designer must prepare and submit a permit application. For a list of designers please go to: <https://bit.ly/vtlicenseddesigner>

**5. I bought an existing structure for my operation, what do I need to do for wastewater and water supply?**

You will need to check to see if the existing structure has a WW Permit, search here: <https://bit.ly/vtwwpermitsearch>. A state of Vermont Licensed Wastewater/Water Supply Designer may need to perform additional investigations on your property to determine site suitability for your operations water and wastewater needs.

## WHAT INFORMATION DOES MY DESIGNER NEED FOR A WW PERMIT APPLICATION?

1. Permit application fee.
2. Type of cannabis operation, including the number of employees.
3. Certification letters from water and wastewater utility, if applicable.
4. Future construction/business plans for the site location.

## HOW DO I FIGURE OUT WHAT PERMITS I MIGHT NEED?

The Agency of Natural Resources has an online Permit Navigator Tool to help you decide what permits you may need and who to contact for more information.

<https://vermont.force.com/permitnavigator/s/>

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**You'll need to do a few things after you receive a WW Permit:**

- Ensure that your installation certification is submitted by your Designer to the Drinking Water Groundwater Protection Division.
- Record the permit and installation certification with the town records department.
- Be sure to read your permit and comply with any inspection or reporting requirements.
- Retain a paper copy for your records.



**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Drinking Water Groundwater Protection Division**