

Stormwater 101: An Introduction to the Vermont Stormwater Program

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Stormwater Program issues separate permits for runoff from impervious surfaces, construction sites and industrial facilities. All new projects, redevelopment projects and expansion projects should be evaluated to determine whether coverage under a State Stormwater Permit and/or a Construction Permit is needed in order to comply with state law and the federal Clean Water Act. Also, if a new project is industrial in nature or is an existing industrial facility, then it may also need to seek coverage under a Multi-Sector General Permit. Many projects require both a State Stormwater Permit and a Construction Permit; some projects may require all three permits. Visit our website at <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm> for more information on all the permit programs administered by the Stormwater Program or call us at (802-241-3777).

State Stormwater Permit:

The State Stormwater Permit Program (a.k.a. operational, post-construction or state stormwater permits) regulates discharges (runoff) from impervious surfaces (i.e. rooftops, paved/gravel roads, etc.). The State Stormwater Permit Program has specific jurisdictional thresholds based on the amount of impervious surface, as per the Stormwater Management Rules: Chapter 18 – Stormwater Management Rule for Non-Stormwater Impaired Waters and Chapter 22 – Stormwater Management Rule for Stormwater Impaired Waters. Work through Section A of the [Stormwater Permit Worksheet](#) or the State Stormwater Permit [State Stormwater Jurisdiction Flow Chart](#) to determine whether permit coverage is required. Projects must apply for coverage under General Permit 3-9015, unless the project is located within a watershed impaired for stormwater, in which case individual permit coverage is required. For more information about impaired watersheds, visit: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_impaired.htm. All application materials are available here: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_appsformswkshs.htm.

Construction Permit:

The Construction Stormwater Permit Program addresses stormwater runoff from earth disturbance activity of one or more acres of land, and is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. In Vermont, the Agency of Natural Resources is delegated to issue these permits. See Section B of the [Stormwater Permit Worksheet](#) to determine whether Construction Stormwater Permit coverage is needed. Projects triggering the need for a Construction Permit must apply for coverage under Construction General Permit 3-9020 or an individual construction discharge permit. More information about determining permit requirements is available at: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_cgp.htm.

Multi-Sector General Permit:

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) 3-9003 addresses stormwater runoff associated with industrial facilities, and is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. In Vermont, the Agency of Natural Resources is delegated to issue these permits. A facility must obtain coverage under the MSGP if the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code that describes the facility is listed within [Table D-1](#). Information about how to apply for coverage is available here: http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/htm/sw_msgp.htm.