



Focus on Construction Stormwater General Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Who needs to apply for Ecology's construction stormwater permit?

Please answer the following questions

- Does your construction project disturb one or more acres of land through clearing, grading, excavating, or stockpiling of fill material? Remember to count the cumulative disturbed acreage of the entire project whether in a single or in a multiphase project. This applies even if your project disturbs only a small portion (less than one acre) of the larger project planned over time.
- Is there any possibility that stormwater could run off your site during construction and into surface waters or conveyance systems leading to surface waters of the state? In almost every case, the answer to this question is yes. However, if the topography and location of your site prevent rainfall or snowmelt from leaving the site or entering a waterway, you do not need permit coverage.

If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, your construction site needs a permit. Construction site operators must apply for a permit to the Washington Department of Ecology 60 days prior to discharging stormwater.

How do I apply for Ecology's construction stormwater general permit?

Download a permit application

You may download an application, also called a "Notice of Intent" or "NOI," from Ecology's website at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ecy02085.html

You may find additional useful information about Ecology's construction stormwater website at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/

A new guidance document, available at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/9937.html may assist you with the new permit application and rules for the new general permit.

Public notice requirements

This permit has a public notice requirement. You must publish two notices in a newspaper that has general circulation in the county of the location of your proposed project.

Construction site activities disturb the land and – when it rains – they can create a lot of muddy stormwater that degrades water quality. Muddy water is considered pollution because it harms the uses that humans, fish, and wildlife rely upon. Mud can cover spawning areas and suffocate salmon eggs. It also can clog gills, making it hard for salmon, trout, and other fish to breathe.

The goal of this permit is to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution and other harm to surface waters from construction sites.



For more information

If you have questions or need assistance with drafting the public notice or completing the application or other forms please contact:

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If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6401. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.