

MS4 Program

What is an MS4?

To address non-point source pollution, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit through its national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) under the commonly referred to Clean Water Act. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency authorized to issue MS4 Phase I and Phase II General Permits. Based on its population, the City of Troutdale has been issued a **NPDES MS4 Phase II General Permit**.

Why do we need an MS4 permit?

As precipitation flows over rooftops, streets and yards, it has the potential to pick up and carry pollutants like bacteria, fertilizers, metals, oil, sediment, trash, and other examples into the storm sewer system and dump it into our surface water and groundwater. These non-point source pollutants are commonly associated with urban development. An MS4 permit outlines the actions to help reduce pollutants from entering the water we all rely on for drinking and recreating in.

What does the City of Troutdale need to do?

Under this permit, the City of Troutdale is responsible for creating and implementing a stormwater management program in the following six (6) areas called control measures:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Site Runoff for New Development and Redevelopment
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

What does the MS4 permit mean in terms of regulations?

The City of Troutdale addresses stormwater regulations in the following areas:

- Storm Sewer System under **Chapter 12.06** of the Troutdale Municipal Code
- Post-Construction Site Runoff Control under the **2016 City of Portland Stormwater Management Manual** and **Source Control Manual**, and **Construction Standards for Public Works Facilities: Interim Change No. 35**



PRESSURE WASHING & SURFACE CLEANING

to protect our water resources.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Although convenient for cleaning surfaces and equipment, pressure washing can send dirty runoff containing oil, soap, chemicals, metals, and sediment into the storm drain system. **Most storm drains have zero to minimal treatment and drain directly toward the surface water and groundwater we all need to protect.**

Here's how our waters are being negatively impacted:

- Sediment clouds the water, hinders aquatic plant growth, and clogs fish gills.
- Even biodegradable soaps rob water of life-giving oxygen.
- Household hazardous wastes, like pesticides, paints, solvents, and auto fluids that collect on driveways and other outside surfaces can poison aquatic life. Animals and people can become sick or die after consuming polluted water or fish.
- Ingestion of pre-1978 paint flakes containing lead can be a concern as it can result in intellectual disabilities in children.
- Avoid using hot water and chemicals as that type of wastewater has a greater negative environmental effect.

DO NOT ALLOW DIRTY WASH WATER TO ENTER THE STORMWATER SYSTEM

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

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Troutdale Municipal Code and **Construction Interim Change No. 34** under the NPDES **1200-C**; and 1,000 square feet of **1200-CN**

1. Use dry cleanup methods first (sweep, blow, vacuum). Dispose of debris in the trash.

2. Soak up oil and fluids using absorbents (cat litter, sawdust, sand) and dry-cleanup methods before washing. This, too, goes in the trash.

3. Direct dirty runoff into a lawn or landscaped area away from the storm drain system.

(If wash water cannot be directed to landscaped areas, collect for disposal to the sanitary sewer via a clean out, toilet, or sink.)

4. Follow EPA lead paint guidelines if pre-1978 era paint is involved.

SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT CAN HELP.

Berms, storm drain covers or mats, sump or vacuum pumps, wet vacuums, filtering or absorbent equipment such as socks, booms, bags of absorbent bark chips, etc., or inflatable pipe plugs can help prevent dirty water from entering the storm drain or allow for suction before it does.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

Pollutants of Concern:

- Oil
- Sediment
- Metals
- Phosphates (Soap)



AVOID FINES!

Polluted discharges from any property that enter a storm drain system are considered an illicit discharge violation and are subject to enforcement. If you are using hot water or chemicals, this water is not allowed to enter storm drains without an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit.

For a complete list of state pressure washing regulations, see the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at www.oregon.gov/DEQ/Div2/2004/0406040604.pdf

For permit requirements for wash water discharge: www.oregon.gov/DEQ/Div2/2004/0406040604.pdf

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FOR HOMEOWNERS

LOOKING TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE?

Ask your landscape maintenance contractor to use these best management practices to help protect our waters, our environment and those you love!



WHY BOTHER WITH BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are designed to protect both our streams and underground drinking water quality, and to prevent clogging our stormwater facilities. Implementing BMPs can make a positive difference to help protect our waters, properties, and public health.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Do not blow or sweep trash, yard debris, soils or chemicals into street or storm drains. Collect and properly dispose of these materials.
- Properly compost or dispose of debris daily.
- Inspect and safely clean onsite landscape stormwater facilities (e.g., rain gardens, swales) to ensure they operate as designed.
- Mow high, often, and with sharp blades.
- Store fertilizers and other chemicals under cover.

- Purchase the least amount of landscape chemicals needed for your site.
- Use integrated pest management practices. For more information visit: www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/RegulatoryIssues/Pages/IPM.aspx
- Adjust sprinklers to minimize irrigation overspray.
- Check local rules! Never stockpile landscaping material (e.g., dirt, bark chips, sand/gravel) in the roadway or on pervious pavement unless your municipality allows it.
- Roots hold soils in place. Plant slopes with dense ground covering plants to prevent erosion.

CONSIDER HIRING AN ECOBIZ CERTIFIED LANDSCAPER! SEE WWW.ECOBIZ.ORG

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Department Staff

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Supporting Documents

MS4 Phase II General Permit 1.2 MB

Stormwater Management Plan (2004)
2.94 MB

Stormwater Management Plan (2011)
824.87 KB

FY21-22 MS4 Annual Report City of
Troutdale 3.55 MB

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