

Food and Kindred Products and the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP)

The MSGP is a permit designed to prevent stormwater pollution from entering into our surface waters. While the majority of processing takes place indoors, outdoor shipping and receiving and storage areas are possible sources of stormwater pollution at Sector U facilities. Rainfall and runoff can be contaminated by materials spilled, leaked, or mislaid. Pollutants of concern at food production facilities include sediment, oil and grease, and bacteria. The following BMPs can be incorporated into a facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

BMPs reduce, eliminate or prevent stormwater pollution from reaching Vermont's rivers and streams

What is a Stormwater BMP?

Best Management Practices, commonly referred to as BMPs, are effective ways to reduce the amount of pollution in stormwater leaving your facility. There are two types of BMPs:

- Structural BMPs are things that can be built on site and include physical structures like berms, settling ponds, oil-water separators, and storm resistant shelters.
- Behavioral BMPs are changes that can be made in the way a person operates their business. Behavioral BMPs include conducting regular inspections, regular maintenance of vehicles and machinery, prohibition of certain activities, and employee training.

An effective Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will include both types of BMPs.

Stormwater BMPs for Food and Kindred Products— Sector U

The following list of suggested BMPs is organized by activity and can be included in your facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The BMPs cover the following operations:

- Shipping and Receiving
- Liquid Storage (Containers)
- Tank Storage
- Solid Waste Storage Areas
- Spill Prevention and Response
- Employee Training



Shipping and Receiving

- Inspect all containers for any damaged, dented, or leaky surfaces (including any raw or spent materials) prior to loading and unloading.
- Confine loading and unloading activities to a designated area.
- Conduct loading and unloading indoors or under cover.
- Avoid loading and unloading materials in the rain.
- All loading operations should occur on an impervious surface.
- Minimize run-on of storm water by grading areas designated for transportation.
- Cover storm drains during loading and unloading activities.
- Use drip pans when loading and unloading liquid products.
- Build berms and dikes around loading and unloading areas. Establish a flow diversion area that redirects stormwater away from loading docks and terminals.
- Install backflow prevention devices on liquid transfer equipment. Use high level alarm systems on tanks.
- Drain hoses back into the truck, railcar, etc. after loading and unloading materials.



Liquid Storage (Containers)

- Use non-corrosive, non-leaking, durable containers. Always use tightly sealed containers.



- Inspect the external condition of containers. Look for leaks, corrosion, or other damage.
- Store containers on an impervious surface, in a roofed and three sided structure, or cover with weighted tarps or awnings.
- Incorporate swales, drainage ditches, curbing, or grading to direct stormwater away from drum storage
- Put individual containers on pallets. Limit the stack height of individual containers.
- Wash empty containers before storing them outdoors.
- Prohibit washing down of material storage areas – disconnect or seal all floor drains from storm drain system.
- Use straps or plastic wrap to stabilize containers.

Tank Storage

- Locate tank outlets for bulkhead liquid storage indoors.
- Visually inspect tank systems on a frequent and regular basis. Pay particular attention to the tank's foundation, connections, coatings, walls, and the piping system.
- Use double walled tanks.

Tank Storage Continued

- Install a secondary containment system around both temporary and permanent tanks.
- Incorporate berms, dikes, liners or vaults.

Solid Waste Storage Areas

- Always contain waste in dumpsters, drums, or bags. Double bag leaky rubbish.
- Dumpsters should be lidded and plugged.



- Locate solid waste storage in designated, impervious areas.
- Use berms or curbs to provide secondary containment for dumpsters and rubbish bins.
- House dumpsters and bins in a three sided structure or construct a roof.
- Use berms, containment trenches, surface grading, swales, drainage ditches, or other diversion structure to direct runoff away from waste storage areas.
- Replace or repair leaking dumpsters. Avoid washing down dumpster storage areas.
- Direct contaminated water to the facility's treatment system or to the sanitary sewer.

Solid Waste Storage Areas Continued

- Store all organic wastes (including spoiled food) under cover on an impervious surface until transfer to a landfill or composting facility.
- Segregate and dispose of all hazardous waste as per state law.

Spill Prevention and Response

- Clean up all spills immediately upon discovery.
- Use dry clean up methods (such as appropriate absorbent materials).
- Never wash down pavement or other surfaces where spills have occurred.
- Inspect shipping and receiving areas regularly to identify any potential problems.
- Store spill kits in shipping and receiving and waste storage areas.
- Develop a spill prevention and response plan that clearly states procedures to stop the source of a spill and outlines the disposal of contaminated materials.

Employee Training

- Inform employees of stormwater pollution sources and prevention.
- Train employees in proper loading and unloading techniques.
- Instruct employees in proper filling and transfer procedures as well as in waste control and disposal.
- Ensure that all employees are familiar with the facility's spill prevention and response plan.



Questions or Assistance with your Stormwater SWPPP, contact:
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