

## **Stormwater 101: An Introduction to the Vermont Stormwater Program**

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Stormwater Program issues separate permits for runoff from impervious (i.e. hard) surfaces, construction sites and industrial facilities.

All new projects, redevelopment projects and expansion projects should be evaluated to determine whether a State Stormwater Permit and/or a Construction Stormwater Permit is needed in order to comply with 10 V.S.A 1264 and the federal Clean Water Act, respectively. If these facilities are industrial in nature or if you have an existing industrial facility, such facilities may also have to seek coverage under the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). Many projects will require both the State Stormwater and Construction Stormwater Permit; some projects may require all three permits.

The **State Stormwater Permit Program** (sometimes referred to as the “operational,” “post-construction” or “stormwater” permit) addresses runoff from *impervious* surfaces (rooftops, paved and non-paved parking/roads etc.). The State Stormwater Discharge Permit program has specific jurisdictional thresholds based on the amount of impervious surface. See Section A of the [stormwater permit worksheet](#) to determine whether you need a State Stormwater Discharge Permit to cover the runoff from the impervious surfaces in your project. This information is also available in the flow chart “[Do I need to obtain a State Stormwater Permit?](#)”

The **Construction Stormwater Permit Program** addresses stormwater runoff from construction activity that disturbs one or more acres of land. The permit is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act, and in Vermont, the Agency of Natural Resources is delegated to issue these permits. See Section B of the [stormwater permit worksheet](#) to determine whether you need a Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit to cover the stormwater runoff from the land disturbed as part of your construction project.

The **Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) Program** addresses stormwater runoff associated with *industrial facilities*. The permit is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act, and in Vermont, the Agency of Natural Resources is delegated to issue these permits. A facility must seek coverage under the MSGP if the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code that describes the facility is listed in [Table D-1](#) of the permit.

Visit our website at <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm> for more information on all the permit programs administered by the Stormwater Section.

### **Applying for Permits:**

#### **State Stormwater Discharge Permit Program Materials:**

In the case of the State Stormwater Discharge Permit Program, projects should apply for coverage under General Permit 3-9015, unless the project is located in a watershed impaired for stormwater, in which case you must apply for an individual stormwater discharge permit. For more information on impaired watersheds, please visit:

[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/html/sw\\_impaired.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/html/sw_impaired.htm).

**Visit/download:**

*Information and 3-9015 application materials for projects in unimpaired watersheds:*

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw\\_rule-unimpaired.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw_rule-unimpaired.pdf)  
[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw\\_3-9015.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_3-9015.htm)

*Information and individual permit application materials for impaired watersheds:*

It may be helpful to contact a member of the stormwater program to discuss the issues related to permitting projects in impaired watersheds at 802-241-3770.

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw\\_rule-impaired.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw_rule-impaired.pdf)  
[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/docs/sw\\_individual-wr82.pdf](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/docs/sw_individual-wr82.pdf)

*2002 Vermont Stormwater Manuals:*

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw\\_manual-vol1.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw_manual-vol1.pdf)  
[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw\\_manual-vol2.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/docs/sw_manual-vol2.pdf)

*State Stormwater Discharge Permit Application Fees:*

[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/docs/sw\\_permitfees.pdf](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/docs/sw_permitfees.pdf)

**Construction Discharge Permit Program Application Materials:**

Projects triggering the need for a Construction Discharge Permit Program should apply for coverage under General Permit 3-9020 or an individual construction discharge permit (if your project is not eligible for general permit coverage). More information about determining permit requirements is available at:

[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw\\_cgp.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_cgp.htm).

**Multi-Sector General Permit Program Application Materials:**

Projects triggering the need for an Industrial Permit should apply for coverage under the Multi-Sector General Permit 3-9003. Additional information that can help you determine whether or not your facility requires coverage under the MSGP is available on the website at:

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/htm/sw\\_msgp.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/stormwater/htm/sw_msgp.htm)