

You may not need to file state or federal permit documents, but stormwater regulations apply to all construction sites.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

1. Under Chapter 47-741(a) of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, “A person commits an offense if the person threatens to introduce, introduces or causes to be introduced into the MS4 any discharge that is not composed entirely of storm water.”
2. Definition of MS4 is: “*Municipal separate storm sewer system* or *MS4* shall mean the system of conveyances owned or operated by the city or any co-permittee of the city that is designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water. “
3. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) identify specific measures and plans of action for control of discharges for a specific site. SWPPP are required for projects with disturbed areas greater than 1 acre.
4. All construction sites (no matter the size) must have measures in place at all times during construction to control site runoff, sediment to inlets or ditches, mud tracking on pavement. Even those sites not required to submit permit applications or SWPPP must comply with City Ordinance.
5. City of Houston Storm Water Quality Inspectors are charged with enforcement of the stormwater regulations and will investigate complaints or inspect any construction site for compliance.
6. A Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued on a first visit. This **is not** a citation but a notice to the responsible party at that site that compliance with the Stormwater Quality Regulations is required or Municipal Citations will be issued.
7. More information on these requirements are available online at:
  - a. Chapter 47 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances  
[https://library.municode.com/tx/houston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=COOR\\_CH47WASE](https://library.municode.com/tx/houston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH47WASE)
  - b. Website for Stormwater Permit documents:  
<https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/office-city-engineer/engineering-services-utilities>
  - c. Clean Water/Clear Choice:  
<https://www.cleanwaterways.org/>