



Engineering Services Section

Stormwater Quality

[New Permit Application Instructions](#)

As found in this PDF Portfolio, the 2001 Storm Water Quality (SWQ) Management Guidance Manual provides general guidance for permanent non-structural and structural controls to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. It lists Best Management Practices (BMP) that will work well in the City of Houston. The manual is not intended to be exhaustive, but to provide an overview of the generally available options for stormwater quality management in the region. You can use this guidance manual to help you choose the BMP that works for your site.

To apply for a new stormwater quality permit, you must submit the **SWQ Permit Application** form and the following documents:

1. Administrative documents:
 - a. **Owner's Affidavit** must be signed by the owner.
 - b. **Engineer's Certification** must be certified by a Professional Engineer that the prepared SWQMP complies with the City's requirements.
 - c. **Notice of Stormwater Quality Requirements and its Exhibit A.** The Notice must be signed and notarized, then the Notice and Exhibit A (preferably property boundary survey) must be recorded at the county courthouse. The submittal shall be official (i.e. no unofficial watermark on the document) and legible.
 - d. **Cost estimate** for the stormwater quality feature and its installation. The estimate is to determine the amount of the SWQ Structural Control Bond that is required. The bond does not have to be submitted with the SWQMP, the owner can attach a **letter stating that the bond will be provided prior to construction.**
2. The **SWQ Management Plan (SWQMP)** template is provided to guide you through your report preparation.

To submit:

- A. Use the Checklist to make sure your plan has all the required elements. You can also return this document with the page number of where each element can be found in your document.
- B. Send a pdf (<15MB) of the complete SWQMP to swq@houstontx.gov. An invoice will be sent to you that you can pay online. The plan will be reviewed, and any comments will be sent to you for corrections. Once approved, the application will be dated, stamped, assigned a permit number, signed, and then scanned and e-mailed to you.