

Manufacturers – Reduce your exposure to industrial stormwater regulations

Minnesota regulations require manufacturing and industrial facilities to manage stormwater runoff from their sites. These rules are designed to reduce the amount of polluted runoff entering our lakes and streams. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) implements these regulations through the Industrial Stormwater Permit.

Manufacturing covers a broad range of activities, and includes facilities of all sizes engaged in the mechanical or chemical transformation of materials, parts, or substances into new products or interim components. Shipping these products, and storing any waste materials generated, may also be covered by these regulations. Facility size can range from a single worker assembling parts in a garage to large industrial complexes employing hundreds of workers.

Manufacturers covered by these regulations must apply for the Industrial Stormwater Permit, or certify they meet the conditions of the No Exposure Exclusion.

No exposure and the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

There are two types of permit coverage available under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit. One is no exposure, which means all significant materials and industrial activities at a facility are protected from rainfall, snowmelt, and subsequent runoff. Facilities that meet these requirements will need to apply for the Industrial Stormwater No Exposure Certification. Facilities that are unable to meet the no exposure requirements will need to apply for the Industrial Stormwater General Permit.

Significant materials and industrial activities

Significant materials and industrial activities can generate pollutants, such as metals, oil, sediment, and chemicals, which will accumulate and then flow off the site with rainfall or snowmelt into ditches, streams, rivers, and lakes.

Significant materials include raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, and waste products used or generated in a manufacturing process. Industrial activities include material handling, processing, storage, transport, and vehicle maintenance.

Significant materials can be found in or include:

- Fuels, solvents, and cleaners
- Raw, intermediate, and final products
- Machining coolants and lubricants
- Trackout of sediment by vehicles

Industrial activities can include:

- Loading/unloading significant materials
- Any manufacturing process
- Outdoor storage of significant materials and manufacturing waste
- Vehicle maintenance, including fueling



No outdoor significant materials or industrial activities at this facility.

No Exposure is good for business and our water

Facilities that meet the no exposure requirements may qualify for a five-year exclusion from the Industrial Stormwater General Permit requirements. Some facilities need only simple adjustments to their processes in order to qualify for the exclusion; other facilities will need to make more extensive efforts to qualify.

What you need to do

1. Determine the industrial stormwater regulations that apply to your facility. MPCA staff can assist you with this process.
2. If your facility meets the industrial stormwater applicability requirements, inventory all outdoor significant materials and activities and determine where they are exposed to stormwater.
3. Identify and implement ways to prevent this exposure to stormwater.
 - If no significant materials or industrial activities are exposed to stormwater, complete and submit the No Exposure Exclusion part of the permit application.
 - If significant materials or industrial activities are exposed to stormwater, first develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, and then complete and submit the entire permit application.

Meeting no exposure requirements

The following practices can help your facility meet the No Exposure requirements:

- Move materials and activities indoors or into storm-resistant shelters
- Shelter containers and drums
- Shelter loading and unloading areas
- Cover materials or operations with canopy or awning structures and install curbs, berms, or slopes to prevent stormwater run-on or runoff
- Use short-term, temporary shelters, like tarps, until permanent structures can be installed
- Perform grinding, cutting, degreasing, buffing, brazing, sanding, cleaning, washing, welding, and painting operations indoors
- Shelter or move unused equipment indoors
- Keep dumpster lids closed and sealed, plug drain holes, and replace when seams crack or holes develop
- Recycle unused equipment rather than stockpiling



Uncovered scrap bins do not meet the No Exposure requirements.



Materials such as raw steel, or steel coated with oil, need to be sheltered to qualify for the No Exposure Exclusion.



A closed dumpster and an awning over the loading dock keep significant materials from stormwater exposure.

Control spills and leaks

- Develop and implement a spill management plan
- Clean up spills from previous events
- Properly drain, collect, store, dispose of or recycle fluids and lubricants
- Use drip pans and empty frequently
- Prevent liquid materials from flowing into exposure areas with dikes or berms

Manage waste

- Frequently recover and contain scrap, dust, and other wastes
- Eliminate sources of particulate buildup

No exposure certification process

1. Develop and implement a facility plan to meet and maintain no exposure conditions
2. Certify for the No Exposure Exclusion by completing the permit application
3. Receive confirmation from MPCA of your No Exposure Exclusion
4. Maintain no exposure conditions for the entire permit cycle
5. Recertify every five years

Once you receive confirmation from MPCA of your No Exposure Certification, your facility is exempt from these General Permit requirements:

1. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan development and implementation
2. Quarterly stormwater runoff collection, testing, and reporting to MPCA
3. Installation, implementation, and maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to manage stormwater runoff
4. Monthly BMP and facility inspections
5. Annual employee training
6. Annual Report submittal to MPCA
7. Annual fee payment to MPCA

If you are unable to meet the no exposure requirements, or if you are unable to maintain the no exposure requirements, you must apply for the Industrial Stormwater General Permit.



This facility avoids exposing pollutants to stormwater by collecting and storing waste fluids indoors with secondary containment.