

The most common source of pollution associated with construction activities is **sedimentation** caused by erosion.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir watershed, most storm drains flow directly into lakes, streams and rivers – and then into the Wachusett Reservoir, a drinking water supply for 3 million Massachusetts residents.

Once this discharge reaches waterways, it creates problems such as turbidity (cloudiness of the water) and chemical changes to the water. These changes effect drinking water quality and can even kill fish and other aquatic wildlife.



Ideally, the only thing that should leave your project's site and enter a storm drain is rainwater – clean, uncontaminated rainwater. An effective stormwater management program is one in which ALL potential pollutants are recognized and a plan is designed to control or prevent them. As a result, you will ensure the safety of the public and preserve the quality of local waters.

For a more comprehensive list of Best Management Practices and stormwater guidance for the construction industry, go to the EPA's website at: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and search "construction stormwater."

**Wachusett Reservoir Watershed**  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Water Supply Protection  
180 Beaman Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
508-792-7806  
[www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm)

June 2020



## General Construction and Site Supervision Stormwater Tips

---

*The Wachusett  
Reservoir is only  
a storm drain  
away.*

*What goes in here ...*



*... comes out here.*

Allowing stormwater with sediment or pollutants to leave your construction site and enter into a storm drain or waterway is against federal, state, and some local laws!

As an owner, operator, or supervisor of a construction site, you may be held financially responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees!

## Plan In Advance to Prevent Pollution:

- Remove existing vegetation only as needed.
- Schedule excavation, grading, and paving operations for dry weather periods.
- Designate a specific area of the site, well away from storm drains or waterways, for material storage and equipment maintenance.
- Educate your employees and subcontractors about stormwater management requirements and their pollution prevention responsibilities.
- Have extra erosion controls (such as hay bales and silt fence/silt socks) on site in case of any emergency.
- Develop and implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls for the site.

## Best Management Practices and good housekeeping can significantly reduce pollutant discharges from your construction site.

Please follow the suggestions below to keep local waterways free from pollutants.

- Protect all storm drain inlets and streams located near the site.
- Limit access to and from the site and stabilize construction entrances and exits.
- Sweep frequently.
- Protect stockpiles by storing under a roof, impermeable tarp, or plastic sheeting.
- Do not store or stockpile materials near a storm drain, wetland or stream.
- Perform major maintenance and repairs of vehicles off site.
- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated washout areas away from resources, and set up small mixers on tarps.
- Remove trash, debris, and wastes on a regular basis and ensure that dumpsters are covered.
- Clean up small spills immediately using dry cleanup methods, such as an absorbent. Sweep as soon as possible.
- Prevent erosion by implementing soil stabilization practices such as mulching, temporary or permanent seeding.
- Maintain all haybales and silt fence to make sure no materials are getting beyond them; replace if necessary.



You are subject to coverage under the EPA NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) if greater than 1 acre of disturbance is proposed and stormwater may leave your site. This permit requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) before ANY work begins.

The SWPPP is a plan to control stormwater discharges from your construction site. It is broader and more complicated than a typical erosion and sediment control plan, and contains more information. The SWPPP needs to be updated as work progresses, and the plan **MUST** be available on site.

For more information on SWPPP development and the CGP Notice of Intent process refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities>

For any disturbance within the Wachusett Reservoir watershed greater than 1 acre, you most likely will also need to complete a BRP WM09 permit issued through the Mass Department of Environmental Protection as well <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/wm-15-npdes->

**If you don't have Construction General Permit coverage, you could be fined up to \$32,500 per day!**