



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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What is an MS4?

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is a conveyance or system of conveyances that is: owned or operated by a federal, state, city, town, county, association, district, sanitary district, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the state; designed or used to collect or convey stormwater only (cannot be combined with sanitary sewer or be part of a wastewater treatment plant); and is based on US Census Bureau defined urbanized areas* and population.

Who Must Apply for a Municipal Stormwater Permit?

Phase I MS4s are entities with Populations over 100,000 and must obtain a stormwater discharge permit for their system

Phase II MS4s, or "Small MS4s" meeting the following criteria must obtain a stormwater discharge permit for their system:

- Small MS4s located in an urbanized area *.
- Small MS4s which serve a population of at least 10,000 people.
- Small MS4s designated by the Secretary as needing coverage.

Small MS4s also include nontraditional MS4 entities such as systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. The term does not include separate sewers in very discrete areas, such as individual buildings.

** The Bureau of the Census determines urbanized areas by applying a detailed set of published criteria to the latest census data. Although the full definition of an urbanized area is complex, the Bureau of Census' general definition is "a land area comprising of one or more places and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile." Systems located in an urbanized area but serving a population less than 1,000 people may be waived from the permit requirements.*

Stormwater Management Program

As part of the stormwater permit, MS4s must develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program. The program must address, at a minimum, the following control measures:

1. Public education and outreach;
2. Public participation/involvement;
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination;
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control;
5. Post-construction stormwater management; and,
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

How do I get coverage under the Small MS4 Permit?

In South Dakota, DANR has issued the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). A general permit is a permit for a specific activity issued throughout the state. The permit covers anyone meeting the conditions of the general permit. There is no fee for this permit. An application package must be submitted to DANR and must include a complete Notice of Intent form, a map of the area served by the MS4, and a summary of the Stormwater Management Program that will be developed and implemented. Contact Stormwater Staff at stormwater@state.sd.us for more information.