

# South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Medical Cannabis Wastewater and Solid Waste Disposal

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pretreatment Industrial User Permits

#### **Do medical cannabis dispensaries need to apply for a Pretreatment Industrial User Permit?**

No, the dispensaries would only be producing domestic wastewater (from bathrooms and sinks) and would not produce a process wastewater. A pretreatment industrial user permit will not be required to discharge domestic wastewater to a municipal sanitary sewer system.

#### **Do manufacturers/growers of medical cannabis need to apply for a Pretreatment Industrial User permit?**

If a manufacturer or grower generates wastewater from the production process and discharges the wastewater to the sanitary sewer, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) will need to review the details of the operation to determine if a pretreatment industrial user permit is needed. Please consider the following questions:

- Do you grow the cannabis in a greenhouse and use fertilizer or pesticides?
- Do you use chemicals to aid in the extraction of the THC?
- Do you discharge more than 25,000 gallons per day to a municipal sanitary sewer system?
- Is your discharge more than 5% of the wastewater treatment facility's flow?

If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, you may need a pretreatment industrial user permit. If your operation is located within the following cities, DANR has delegated permitting authority to those cities. You will need to contact the local pretreatment program to obtain a determination on whether a permit is needed:

- Aberdeen- Amanda Fischer (605) 626-7043
- Brookings- Matt Volkers (605) 693-3287
- Huron- Aaron Rogers (605) 353-8539
- Mitchell- Jon Vermeulen (605) 945-8446
- Rapid City- Leah Hall (605) 394-4174
- Sioux Falls- Jesse Neyens (605) 367-8278
- Watertown- Craig Mitchell (605) 882-6244

A pretreatment industrial user permit issued by one of these cities meets the requirements of a state-issued permit.

For the rest of the communities in South Dakota, please contact DANR's Pretreatment Coordinator Kyle Doerr (605-773-3351) to determine if a permit is needed.

### **If I need a Pretreatment Industrial User permit, how long will it take?**

It can take up to six months to obtain a pretreatment industrial user permit. Please begin working with DANR as soon as possible to ensure we can issue a permit before you begin your manufacturing operation. A copy of the application is available online:

[https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR\\_E0465V1-c\\_nipwd\\_Appl.pdf](https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_E0465V1-c_nipwd_Appl.pdf)

## Onsite Wastewater Disposal

### **Can manufacturers/growers of medical cannabis dispose of cannabis production wastewater in their on-site wastewater system?**

Yes, however, operators planning to use an on-site wastewater system for disposal must submit plans and specifications to DANR for review and approval prior to construction. Once approved a copy of DANR's approval letter will be available upon request.

## Solid Waste Disposal

### **How do I legally dispose of cannabis waste?**

The best disposal option is to use one of South Dakota's 15 regional municipal solid waste landfills. Landfill operators are already knowledgeable on how to render similar wastes unrecognizable and unfit for use prior to disposal.

Location and contact information for South Dakota's municipal solid waste landfills can be found at:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/SolidWaste/Landfills.aspx>

### **Can I compost cannabis waste?**

Yes, if the cannabis waste is generated and composted on your own property.

However, solid waste permitting by DANR is required if an operator accepts cannabis waste or other compostable materials from offsite sources.

## Do I need a license or permit to transport cannabis waste?

No, DANR does not require a license or permit to transport cannabis waste. However, cannabis waste hauled offsite must be transported to a landfill facility permitted to accept the waste for disposal or composting.

### DANR Contact Information

|   | Contact      | Phone        | Email  |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Pretreatment Industrial User Permits</b> | Kyle Doerr   | 605-773-3351 | <a href="mailto:DANRmail@state.sd.us">DANRmail@state.sd.us</a> |
| <b>On-site Wastewater Disposal</b>          | Matt Cherney | 605-773-3351 | <a href="mailto:DANRmail@state.sd.us">DANRmail@state.sd.us</a> |
| <b>Solid Waste Disposal</b>                 | Steve Kropp  | 605-773-3153 | <a href="mailto:DANRmail@state.sd.us">DANRmail@state.sd.us</a> |