

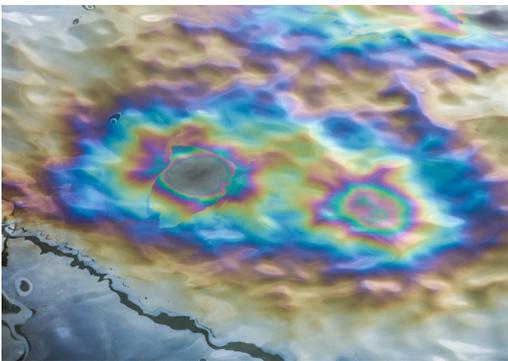


building experience

insights on building & site construction

Seven Ways to Separate Process from Storm

Is your plant in compliance with storm water pollutant discharge limits? Are you sure none of your process drains connect to storm water outlets? Hixson frequently observes site conditions that lead to pollutants being washed down storm drains instead of the process sewer or stormwater flowing into process sewers. Both of these cross-contamination scenarios are problematic: The first can invalidate your No Exposure certification and the second is illegal in most jurisdictions.



For example, does staff ever go outside to wash-down semi-trucks or clean off greasy pallets in your parking lot? Do you have a drain near your leaky dumpster that is going to the storm sewer? Depending on the design of your lot, pollutants from these sources may be heading straight for the storm drain with possible fines for each offense. Additionally, stormwater flowing to process drains can also be an issue. For example, if you have

a process drain outside, it must be strategically located or physically separated to prevent storm water intrusion.

From a civil engineering perspective, a number of options exist that can be designed for your facility and property to keep stormwater and industrial wastewater run-off separate. Consider the following options to maintain separation between storm and industrial run-off:

1. Canopies over high-risk areas (e.g., loadout connections, open roll-offs).
2. Strategically sloped pavement, concrete diking, curbs, and berms.
3. Double-trench drains at dock doors, separated with a curb.
4. Detention basins with outlets that can be plugged or shut.
5. Basin lining to prevent run-off from leaching into the ground.
6. Sumps with valves controlling the release to sanitary or storm sewer.
7. Ditches and swales that can be dammed in emergencies.

The rules regarding storm and process wastewater separation are fairly standard throughout the United States. In recent conferences where state agencies presented, they have indicated plans for increased storm water inspections to address the issues noted above. Check your existing conditions to ensure your facility and property are in compliance with the current regulatory guidelines.

experience in brief

One more way to prevent stormwater and process sewer from crossing into each other? Reduce the number of bulk storage active areas exposed to precipitation and stormwater by designing them indoors, with spills directed to a contained area.

more experience

[Fall 2018: The Essentials of Roof Load Capacity](#)

[Water Management Best Practices - A Food Plant of the Future Webinar](#)

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