

Stormwater BMPs: CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING

Dewatering is performed at construction sites to achieve dry soil conditions for boring, drilling, or sediment excavation. Water removed through dewatering can contain a variety of contaminants that, if introduced into the stormwater system or a waterbody, can impair water quality and threaten animal and plant habitats.

Direct dumping of dewatering material in to wetlands, lakes, creeks, rivers, marshes, or the storm drain is illegal.

Use the following controls to ensure that dewatering activities at your construction site do not threaten water resources in the Town of Mount Pleasant.

- Groundwater withdrawals, including dewatering, that remove more than 3 million gallons of water in any monthly period requires a SCDHEC permit.
- Dewatering design should consider the volume and velocity of the dewatering discharge so it does not overwhelm the system, creating scouring and erosion issues.
- Pump sediment-laden water to either:
 - A sediment control structure*
 - An infiltration trench*
 - A buffer strip or zone*



Sediment Bag, www.calpaclab.com

Sediment Control Structure— Pump into a sediment basin or through a manufactured dewatering device, like a sediment bag. Make sure you do not exceed the capacity of the structure.



Infiltration Trench, Cahill Associates, 2004

Infiltration Trench — Pump water through perforated pipe in a gravel pit or container. Don't let erosion at hose outfall occur.



Swale, www.stmarysscd.com

Buffer strip or zone— Pump into a vegetated buffer zone, like a swale, to remove sediment. Don't let erosion at hose outfall occur.

**Always consult with your project engineer on the dewatering practice that will work best for your site.*

DO protect storm drains and inlets by using sediment barriers, filters, and inlet covers.



DON'T remove or damage silt fences, tree protection, or other erosion control measures to place your dewatering hose.

DO reuse water for dust control and irrigation to the maximum extent possible.

DON'T allow direct dumping of water to storm drain, waterbody, or wetland without removing pollutants and sediment first.

Remember, your success and the quality of our surrounding waters depends on an effective employee training program.

Questions? Please contact:
Town of Mount Pleasant
Stormwater Department—Water Quality Division
100 Ann Edwards Lane
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
843-849-2022

