



# NPDES POLLUTION PREVENTION STRATEGIES

*The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limits water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into U.S. waters. Stormwater runoff from construction sites is one such source. Operators of a regulated construction site need an NPDES stormwater permit and are required to implement pollution-prevention strategies that manage stormwater and minimize erosion and sedimentation.*

## Routine Site Inspections

- » Operators should conduct site inspections weekly and within 24 hours of the end of a rain event totaling more than 0.5 inches.
- » Before rain events:
  - Ensure that perimeter controls are cleaned out and operating properly.
  - Cover dumpsters, paint and other chemicals.
- » After rain events:
  - Within 48 hours after rainfall, inspect, clean and repair the site's Best Management Practices (BMPs).
  - Clean mud and debris from silt fences.
  - Remove mud in traffic areas.
  - Remove standing water if possible.
- » Operators should visually inspect all BMPs when the site will be inactive for several days (i.e., weekends and holidays).
- » Maintain proper documentation and complete an inspection form for each inspection. Include:
  - Names and certification signatures of the qualified inspector.
  - Dates of inspection.
  - Rainfall data.
  - Major observations and actions taken.
  - Any incidents of non-compliance.

## Best Management Practices

- » Minimize clearing and grading of site.
- » Protect waterways (i.e., silt fences and/or earthen dikes).
- » Phase construction to limit soil exposure.
- » Immediately stabilize exposed soils.
- » Protect steep slopes and cuts. Avoid cutting and grading steep slopes (>15%) when possible. Redirect water flow with diversions or a slope drain.
- » Install perimeter controls to filter sediments.
- » Employ advanced sediment settling controls.
- » Certify and train contractors on stormwater site plan implementation.
- » Control waste at construction site.

### What DEP inspectors look for at a regulated construction site:

- » **Copy of NPDES permit**
- » **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)**
- » **How BMPs and the SWPPP are implemented on-site**
- » **Inspection reports**