

## Contacts and Further Resources

### City of Helena

**Utility Maintenance Division:** (406) 457-8567

**Engineering Division:** (406) 447-8430

**Web Site:** [www.helenamt.gov/public-works/utility-maintenance/stormwater](http://www.helenamt.gov/public-works/utility-maintenance/stormwater)

- Reviews storm water plans and measures for construction projects.
- Information on storm water management best practices.

**City Planning Division:** (406) 447-8490

**Web Site:** [www.helenamt.gov/departments/community-development/planning](http://www.helenamt.gov/departments/community-development/planning)

- Helena construction permits.

### Lewis & Clark County

**Water Quality Protection District:**

(406) 457-8584

[water@lccounty.mt.gov](mailto:water@lccounty.mt.gov)

**Web Site:** [www.lccountymt.gov/health/water](http://www.lccountymt.gov/health/water)

- Information on storm water and BMPs.
- Help identify appropriate permits.

**Community Development and Planning:**

(406) 447-8374

**Web Site:** [www.lccountymt.gov/cdp](http://www.lccountymt.gov/cdp)

- Lewis & Clark County permits.

**MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

**Storm Water Construction:** (406) 444-5349

**Web Site:** [www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/MPDES/StormwaterConstruction.mcp](http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/MPDES/StormwaterConstruction.mcp)

- Issues the State storm water “General Permit.”
- Extensive online information and forms.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**Storm Water Construction Web Site:**

[cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/const.cfm](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/const.cfm)

- Information on the SWPPP, General Permit, and storm water BMPs.

## Storm Water

Storm water is naturally occurring runoff. If it runs off into the storm drain system or across the land, it will eventually enter Tenmile Creek or Prickly Pear Creek without further treatment.

If that water picks up contaminants such as excess sediment, chemicals or other waste, it can affect fish and water quality.

## Management

Storm water control and management is part of every construction project. A successful project will:

- Keep storm water on-site.
- Ensure that storm water runoff stays clean.

The City of Helena and the State of Montana have specific guidance, requirements, and permits for construction projects. This guide will give you the information you need to ensure your building project addresses storm water control.

## Storm Water BMPs



Poor Silt Fence BMP

Good Silt Fence BMP



Infiltration Pond

Grassy Retention Swale

# Storm Water & Construction



## Your Guide to Storm Water Control Permits & Requirements

Helena and Lewis & Clark County

Lewis & Clark County  
Water Quality Protection District

City of Helena Public Works



## Best Management Practices

Storm water that runs off the land or through the storm drain system is not treated and will eventually end up in local streams and lakes. Erosion, excess sediment, and increased storm water runoff may occur, due to construction, if not carefully managed.

Allowing storm water to seep into the ground and keeping that water clean will help preserve drinking water, fisheries, and healthy streams. The City of Helena has an obligation to ensure that only storm water enters its system. Anything else is illicit discharge.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are designed to ensure that storm water is kept controlled on-site and clean. Appropriate BMPs can apply to construction and built sites. BMP types for storm water control are:

**Temporary BMPs** are temporary measures put in place during the construction phase of a project. Sediment and erosion are primary concerns, addressed by measures such as silt fences. Concrete wash stations to keep concrete from contaminating and plugging storm drains.

**Permanent BMPs** are elements designed to retain storm water and allow it to infiltrate into the ground such as retention ponds, swales or pervious pavement.

**Post-construction Operation and Maintenance BMPs** Chemical spills, debris, and excess fertilizer are long-term management considerations. Spill prevention and regular maintenance of impervious surfaces and permanent storm water retention structures continues for the life of a built project.

## Storm Water Permits and Requirements

Applicable permits, reviews, and obligations vary depending on the type of construction project and location of the project. One or more of the following cases will apply to your project.

Construction Size and Type	Location and Permits or Obligations	Requirements
<p>Project will <b>disturb a total of 1 or more acres of land during construction</b></p> <p>Any activity that may result in soil erosion is a disturbance. Activities include clearing, grading, excavation, and filling.</p> <p><b>BMPs:</b> Temporary BMPs and operation and maintenance planning to prevent erosion and increases in storm water runoff.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Anywhere in Montana.</p> <p><b>Permit:</b> General Storm Water Discharge Permit, known as the <b>General Permit</b>, must be issued before construction begins. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues the permit. An <b>owner or operator must obtain the permit.</b></p> <p>Subdivision permits may have additional drainage and grading requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>Notice of Intent (NOI)</b> to discharge storm water associated with construction.</li> <li>• A <b>Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)</b> must be completed and approved.</li> <li>• <b>Fees paid to the DEQ.</b></li> <li>• In Helena or on land that is being annexed, the SWPPP must be <b>submitted with Helena building permits</b> in cases where the General Permit is needed.</li> </ul>
<p>Project will result in <b>5,000 or more square feet of impervious surface</b> or is <b>critical to storm water system function</b></p> <p><b>BMPs:</b> Permanent BMPs that will prevent storm water runoff increases.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> City of Helena or land that will be annexed.</p> <p><b>Permit:</b> The applicable planning or building permit will be submitted to the Planning Department. The Engineering Department reviews storm water considerations for compliance with the city ordinance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An engineered <b>Drainage and Grading Plan</b> must be submitted with the appropriate City of Helena building permit. The City of Helena Engineering Division must sign off on the plan as part of the permit application.</li> </ul>
<p><b>All other construction projects</b></p> <p><b>BMPs:</b> Good construction, good site management, and good housekeeping practices are applied on as-needed temporary or long-term basis.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> City of Helena or land that will be annexed.</p> <p><b>Permit:</b> Applicable building permits. The City of Helena Storm Water Ordinance prohibits storm water contamination from entering into its storm water system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All property owners in Helena are required to <b>prevent contaminants from entering storm water system.</b> There is no formal review of the practices, but landowners can be liable for clean-up costs if contamination occurs.</li> </ul>