



Storm drains are part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). As the name suggests, it is a separate conveyance system from the sanitary sewer, designed specifically to transport stormwater. While the sanitary sewer goes to a treatment facility before releasing water, the MS4 does not receive treatment. In developed communities there are more impervious surfaces (buildings, parking lots, driveways, streets, sidewalks) which prevent precipitation from being absorbed into the ground where it falls. This causes precipitation to accumulate and flow, which is called “stormwater runoff”. To prevent flooding, stormwater is directed into the MS4 and transported directly to parks, washes, canals, rivers, and community lakes. Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants such as dirt, trash, oil, grease, and chemicals as it flows, making stormwater runoff one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. It is illegal to knowingly dump or discharge pollutants into storm drain systems and local ordinances can impose significant penalties for illicit discharges. If you spot something other than stormwater flowing in the street or catch basins, you may report illegal discharges by contacting us at 480.350.4311 or [online](#). Provide as much information as possible (address, business name, license number, date, time, etc.). We’ll send someone to investigate the issue, [educate the discharger](#), and prevent pollution to our waterways. **Remember Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!!**

Rules related to Stormwater

Processes are underway at ADEQ to update several programs; follow the links for more details. Register [here](#) to receive notices directly from ADEQ about the programs that are of interest to you.

[Multi Sector General Permit \(MSGP\)](#)
[Water Quality Standards](#) - Triennial Review

[Construction General Permit \(CGP\)](#)
[ADEQ Assumption of 404 Permits](#)

EPA and Army Corps Propose New "Waters of the United States" Definition

[Waters of the United States](#) (WOTUS) Rulemaking – comments being accepted until April 15, 2019.