

Well Drilling

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Protect creeks and lakes.
Avoid fines for polluting.



Stormwater Compliance

- ✓ The **only** thing allowed to enter a storm drain is **rain** water. Prevent any other materials from entering storm drains or surface waters.
- ✓ Discharges of drilling cuttings and mud into storm drains or surface waters are subject to local fines of up to \$10,000 per day, per event.
- ✓ Block storm drain inlets near the drilling site in case drilling cuttings and mud discharges offsite.

Impacts from Illegal Discharges

- ✓ Discharges from well drilling can negatively impact our local water quality if not properly managed.
- ✓ Mud and other drilling by-products can fill in the bottom of creeks and lakes, destroying habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
- ✓ Creeks drain into lakes that serve as public drinking water sources. Polluted discharges can affect the quality of our drinking water and increase the cost of treating the water to meet EPA standards.

Containment and Recovery

- ✓ Install a combination of high-hazard silt fence, hay bales, sandbags, wattles, and other methods to help contain and slow down drilling discharges, or
- ✓ Use a diverter system and storage tank to transport and capture fluids.
- ✓ Use a vacuum truck/tank to recover mud and drill cuttings during and after the drilling process.
- ✓ Stop work if discharges during drilling are going offsite or otherwise bypassing containment controls. Report illegal discharges to 311 if discharges enter a storm drain or surface water.

Storage and Disposal

- ✓ Mud and drill cuttings recovered from drilling must be properly stored, managed, and disposed of in accordance with regulations.
- ✓ Some companies empty mud and drill cuttings into basins to dewater before final disposal at a landfill. Contact the landfill to ask about their requirements. An environmental waste company is another option.
- ✓ For sites that disturb more than 1 acre, a Construction Stormwater General Permit is required by NCDEQ (704-663-1699).

Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte are committed to ensuring that our programs, services and activities are accessible to all. Upon request, auxiliary aids, written materials in alternative formats, language access and other reasonable modifications will be provided. To make a request, please contact stormwater@mecknc.gov or 980-314-3218.

Storm Drains are for Rain Only



Stormwater goes directly to our creeks and lakes without treatment. Pollution that washes away with rain and enters storm drains is called stormwater pollution.

Preventing stormwater pollution is important for:



Drinking Water



Recreation



Fish & Wildlife



Quality of Life

Pollution isn't just bad for the environment—it's illegal.

*You can be fined up to **\$10,000** per day, per event.*

**Report Spills and Stormwater Pollution to
311 or (704) 336-7600**

For more information, visit StormWater.CharMeck.org.

