

# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Stormwater and Nonpoint Pollution Regulations and Programs

*As part of New Jersey's compliance with federally mandated requirements, the NJDEP's 2004 stormwater regulations ([NJAC 7.8](#)) aims to reduce flooding and nonpoint water source pollution through stormwater management.*

## State Requirements for Municipalities

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) stormwater rules adopted in 2004 require municipalities, most public colleges and universities, county, state, interstate and federal public complexes and transportation agencies to file a Request for Authorization for permits to cover stormwater discharges from storm sewers.

The regulations divide New Jersey's municipalities into two groups: [Tier A](#) towns that have at least 1,000 people per square mile and a population of at least 10,000; and [Tier B](#) towns that have less than 1,000 people per square mile and a population less than 10,000.

NJDEP's Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control offers Guidance Documents for Tier A and Tier B towns including information on

- Stormwater pollution prevention plan,
- Model stormwater control ordinances,
- Groundwater recharge spreadsheets,
- Educational information and brochures.

A requirement on the use of non-structural stormwater management techniques, including minimizing disturbance, minimizing impervious surfaces, minimizing the use of stormwater pipes, preserving natural drainage features etc. helps protect stormwater quality. Required utilization of Green Infrastructure is currently being considered by the DEP.

## Permitting for Existing Development

State law and regulations require municipalities to put together a [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan](#) to prevent pollution. The Tier A Municipal Matrix shows that the regulations require each municipality to develop, implement and enforce a Stormwater Program. The municipality must accomplish the following required tasks:

- [Map and monitor](#) existing stormwater outfalls;
- [Pass ordinances](#);
- *Initiate good housekeeping practices* for public work yards, streets, stormwater conveyance system;
- *Control solids and floatables* by street sweeping, stormwater facility maintenance, litter control, pet and wildlife waste control.
- Public education by making information available at annual town events.

## Management for New Development

State laws and regulations require towns to adopt a [Stormwater Management Plan \(download\)](#) and ordinances to manage stormwater runoff from new developments. New developments are required to

- Infiltrate stormwater into the ground, where possible;
- Strictly control post-development stormwater quality;
- Continue to manage stormwater volume through controlling the rate of runoff;
- Use non-structural [Best Management Practices](#);
- Have a 300-foot buffer on either side of Category 1 water bodies and tributaries within their sub-watershed drainage boundaries.

## What Environmental Commissions Can Do

Environmental commissions can help their municipalities implement the stormwater requirements:

- Relate to your town's administration reasons to take steps to clean up water pollution
- Offer to fulfill the public education requirement, having brochures and presentations available
- Utilize the e-tool [Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review](#), developed by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and ANJEC during stormwater review
- Provide your municipality with stormwater management and stream buffer ordinances, see [Model Ordinances](#)
- Use ANJEC's three-panel Stormwater Display by calling (973)539-7547 or emailing [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)
- Be informed about Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Pollution Regulations and new Programs such as the [Stormwater Utility](#) legislation
- Review the [NJ Green Infrastructure Municipal Toolkit](#) to understand how Green Infrastructure can be used by municipalities for stormwater management/water quality strategies .
- Browse the [NJDEP Stormwater Index](#) for stormwater related technical information, guidance materials and educational resources
- Refer to ANJEC resource [papers and publications](#)

For additional advice and information, [contact](#) ANJEC or call [\(973\) 539-7547](tel:9735397547).