



General Information - MS4s

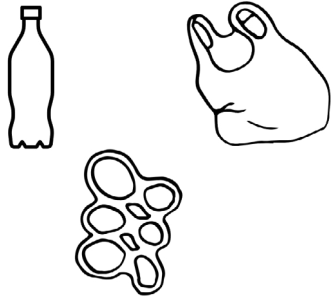
(Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)

PORT HOUSTONSM
THE INTERNATIONAL PORT OF TEXAS

What is storm water and why is it important?

Storm water runoff is water that flows over land during or after a rain event. All runoff from Port Houston eventually discharges directly into Galveston Bay.

Storm water runoff picks up pollutants as it flows into storm drainage systems. Examples of typical pollutants include:



FLOATABLES



SEDIMENTS

(can carry heavy metals, oil, or grease)



DISSOLVED CONTAMINANTS

Storm water pollution can severely impact our natural resources by endangering aquatic habitats, impairing recreational use of receiving waters, and contaminating drinking water supplies. Storm water usually receives no treatment for pollutant removal (unlike domestic wastewater). This means that pollutants can directly enter receiving waters, such as the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay.

Useful websites for additional information:

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources

TCEQ MS4 General Information

www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/ms4

TCEQ Phase I MS4s

www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/ms4/WQ_ms4_medium_large.html

TCEQ Phase II MS4s

www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/ms4/WQ_ms4_small.html

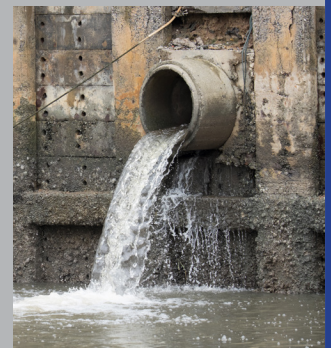
Port Houston

www.porthouston.com

How is the port affected?

Storm water from Port Houston and its tenants discharges via outfalls to the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay. To address permit requirements (from the TCEQ), Port Houston will:

- Test storm water quality
- Implement measures called Best Management Practices
- Implement practices to improve storm water quality





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What is an MS4 permit?

An MS4 permit is applicable to stormwater drainage systems operated by municipalities that include pipes, roads with drainage systems, streets, storm drains, catch basins curbs, gutters, ditches, and natural and man-made channels. The MS4 covers all discharges from Port Houston property into the storm sewer system. A Storm

Water Management Plan (SWMP) must be developed in order to obtain an MS4 permit. The SWMP addresses six minimum control measures. These measures are listed below.

Six Minimum Control Measures of the MS4 SWMP

1 Public¹ Education and Outreach

Inform the Port Houston community about the MS4 program and impart education about the adverse effects of polluted storm water runoff.

2 Public Participation/ Involvement

Invite public participation in program development and implementation.

3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Develop and put into effect a plan to identify and eliminate illicit discharges and educate the community about the adverse effects associated with such illicit discharges.

4 Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping

Develop and implement programs to reduce pollutants entering storm water runoff.

5 Construction Site Runoff Control

For construction activities that disturb greater than or equal to one acre, develop, implement, and enforce an erosion and sediment control plan to reduce the potential of sediments from entering the MS4.


6 Post-Construction Runoff Control

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to enhance the quality of post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas.

¹Port Houston defines public/community as those tenants that operate within the property boundaries owned by Port Houston and are connected to the Port Houston storm water collection system either by direct sewer connection or indirect storm water runoff.

Contact Information

To report a spill to stormwater, contact Port Houston emergency hotline  713-670-3611

For other general storm water information or questions  environmental@porthouston.com