The most common source of pollution associated with construction activities is sedimentation caused by erosion. The Wachusett Reservoir, a drinking water supply for 2.2 million Massachusetts residents, and other aquatic wildlife can even die if fish and chemical changes to the water. Once this discharge reaches the Wachusett Reservoir, it creates problems such as turbidity (cloudiness of the water).

For a more comprehensive list of Best Management Practices and stormwater guidance for the construction industry, go to the EPA’s website at: www.epa.gov.

Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

Department of Conservation and Recreation

180 Beaman Street

West Boylston, MA 01583

508-792-7806

www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm

May 2012

General

Construction and Site Supervision

Stormwater Tips

What Goes in Here..." 

Stormwater: "www.epa.gov and search "construction Management Practices and Stormwater"

Wachusett Reservoir Watershed Department of Conservation and Recreation

180 Beaman Street

West Boylston, MA 01583

508-792-7806

www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm

Stormwater Tips

General

Construction and Site Supervision

Stormwater

What Goes in Here...

Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

What goes in here..." 

Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.

Allowing stormwater with sediment to leave your construction site and enter a storm drain is against federal, state, and some local laws.

Failure to maintain adequate Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESCs) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Wachusett Reservoir, sediment discharges into the storm drain system causes algae blooms, which results in low oxygen levels and dead zones in the Wachusett Reservoir. The Wachusett Reservoir is only a storm drain away.
As an owner, operator, or supervisor of a construction site, you may be held financially responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees!

Plan In Advance to Prevent Pollution:

- Remove existing vegetation only as needed.
- Schedule excavation, grading, and paving operations for dry weather periods.
- Designate a specific area of the site, well away from storm drains or waterways, for material storage and equipment maintenance.
- Educate your employees and subcontractors about stormwater management requirements and their pollution prevention responsibilities.
- Have extra erosion controls (such as hay bales and silt fence/silt socks) on site in case of any emergency.
- Develop and implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls for the site.

Best Management Practices and good housekeeping can significantly reduce pollutant discharges from your construction site.

Please follow the suggestions below to keep local waterways free from pollutants.

- Protect all storm drain inlets and streams located near the site.
- Limit access to and from the site and stabilize construction entrances and exits.
- Sweep frequently.
- Protect stockpiles by storing under a roof, impermeable tarp, or plastic sheeting.
- Do not store or stockpile materials near a storm drain, wetland or stream.
- Perform major maintenance and repairs of vehicles off site.
- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated washout areas away from resources, and set up small mixers on tarps.
- Remove trash, debris, and wastes on a regular basis and ensure that dumpsters are covered.
- Clean up small spills immediately using dry cleanup methods, such as an absorbent. Sweep as soon as possible.
- Prevent erosion by implementing soil stabilization practices such as mulching, temporary or permanent seeding.
- Maintain all hay bales and silt fence to make sure no materials are getting beyond them; replace if necessary.

You are subject to coverage under the EPA NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) if greater than 1 acre of disturbance is proposed and stormwater may leave your site. This permit requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) before ANY work begins.

The SWPPP is a plan to control stormwater discharges from your construction site. It is broader and more complicated than a typical erosion and sediment control plan, and contains more information. The SWPPP needs to be updated as work progresses, and the plan MUST be available on site.

For more information on SWPPP development and the CGP Notice of Intent process refer to: [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp).

For any disturbance within the Wachusetts Reservoir watershed greater than 1 acre, you most likely will also need to complete a BRP WM09 permit issued through the Mass Department of Environmental Protection as well ([www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/surffms.htm#npdes2](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/surffms.htm#npdes2)).

If you don’t have Construction General Permit coverage, you could be fined up to $32,500 per day!