

ADEQ New Rules for 2020

The 2019 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity MSGPs becomes effective on January 1, 2020. Existing permittees (those who have coverage under the 2010 permit) have between January 1, 2020 and February 28, 2020 to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) using the [myDEQ](#) portal.

Construction sites greater than one acre should be aware that ADEQ is in the process of finalizing the Construction General Permit (CGP). The formal Comment period ended December 20, 2019. Public Notification of the final CGP will be published in the Arizona Administrative Register. For notification subscribe to ADEQ's CGP [gov.delivery](#) distribution list.

For questions regarding the CGP reissuance process, contact: Laurie (Rosi) Sherrill, 602-771-4409, Sherrill.laurie@azdeq.gov

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced their intention to publish a new definition for Waters of the United States ([WOTUS](#)) by early 2020. If published as proposed, the definition change would remove federal environmental protections for many Arizona waters. ADEQ is launching a community engagement program to seek input about how "Waters of Arizona" should be protected.

Learn more about this process at <https://azdeq.gov/woaz>

Copper in Stormwater

The City of Tempe has been monitoring stormwater samples from major outfalls throughout the City for many years. One of the most frequently found substances is copper.

So, how does copper get in the samples? Isn't it just natural since we live in the Copper State? Arizona produces 60% of the nation's copper, however the geology of Tempe doesn't contain copper of any significance that would contribute to what is found in the stormwater.



Many automotive brake manufacturers use copper in brake pads. As brakes wear, they produce tiny particles of copper in the brake dust. Historically this dust has been a source for copper in stormwater. In 2015, the EPA, states, and the automotive industry signed an agreement to reduce the use of copper in brake pads to less than five percent by weight in 2021, and to less than 0.5% by 2025. Most manufactures have re-formulated brake pads to meet the new standards and are now even offering copper-free pads. This has led to a reduction of copper in the stormwater.

Copper is also a common ingredient in algaecides, which are used in the maintenance of pools, spas, and fountains. A quick look at [satellite images](#) will show that there are thousands of pools in Tempe. Most everyone back-washes their filters to their yard which allows copper to build-up over time. A significant storm event or pool discharge can move the copper out to the street, alleys, or storm collection system.



Another source of copper is in pressure treated wood, which is common in exterior walls, house frames, fences, decks, out-door furniture, and shake roof shingles. Most of these woods have been treated with copper compounds. As our harsh climate causes these woods degrade, the copper compounds will be released to the environment.

Finally, ornamental copper (which also includes brass and bronze) fixtures, particularly those with a verdigris (green oxide) surface, contribute to copper in the environment. These can be architectural structures or individual items exposed to the elements. Erosion of these types of items is about one gram per square meter per year, thus is just a minor source of copper in stormwater.

Help keep copper out of stormwater by following these tips:

- Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or in a location that does not drain to the street.
- Properly contain and dispose of fluids used for vehicle maintenance. Fluids from radiator repair and flushing contain particularly high concentrations of copper.
- Never dispose of any automotive fluids in storm drains.
- Keep pool, fountain, and spa water on your property or discharge it to the sanitary sewer when possible. City ordinance prohibits the discharge of residential pool drainage to the city's storm system if it contains any measurable amount of copper or other pollutant(s).
- Follow directions when using pesticides, fungicides, and algaecides and avoid using them when rain is in the forecast.
- Keep copper containing chemicals and materials under cover to prevent contact with stormwater.



If you notice anything other than stormwater running in the street or to a catch basin please report it [online](#) or call 480-350-4311; we will investigate and educate the discharger.

Preventive measures and best management practices (BMP's) reduce materials to stormwater exposure thereby limiting the amounts of pollutants available to be picked up by storm water. Be Stormwater Smart and assist Tempe in reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Visit www.tempe.gov/stormwater and remember...

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!!