



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Quality Permits for Discharging Freshpack, Winery and Food Process Wastewater

Background

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality requires facilities to have a water quality permit for discharges to state waters or to the ground. Waters of the state include surface waters (wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, etc.) and groundwater. Permits are required for any discharge of wastewater (sewage, processing water, wash water, etc.), including wastewater that may be relatively clean. Discharges may occur through a variety of disposal systems including land irrigation, seepage ponds, onsite systems, dry wells, or directly to surface water. Discharges to state waters or the ground are only allowed if they meet strict standards. DEQ discharge permits require monitoring to assure compliance with the DEQ permit.

If you wash or process fruit or vegetables for commercial use, do you need a permit?

Yes, you need a permit if you discharge your process water to a septic system, the ground or state waters. If all your process water discharges to a sanitary sewer, you don't need a DEQ permit but may need to coordinate your discharge with your wastewater treatment facility.

What permit do you need?

1400A and 1400B water pollution control facility (WPCF) general permits are for the following types of discharges:

1400A - This permit is required for wineries and seasonal freshpack food operations that do not significantly alter the final product for market. Wastewater generated from this type of food preparation is only disposed of by land application for beneficial reuse.

1400B - This permit is required for wineries and food processors that prepare their product by cooking, pickling, slaughtering or by other mechanical or thermal processes. Wastewater from these processors may be disposed of by land application, evaporative pond or by an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system.

Both permits limit disposal to no more than 25,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

What if you do not apply for a permit?

If you conduct or plan to conduct activities covered under either of these general permits, then registration is required. Obtain permit coverage before beginning the operation that will result in a discharge. If you've already begun to discharge, you must apply for a permit as soon as possible. Failure to register for a permit or comply with disposal requirements can result in an enforcement action, which may include a fine.

What is the permit registration process?

Registration with DEQ consists of a completed permit application form, which includes a wastewater management plan, a Land Use Compatibility Statement, and fees.

The wastewater management plan must describe your waste collection system, the volume of wastewater produced, the chemical strength of wastewater, the acreage and soils where the waste is applied, how solids are separated and disposed of, any evaporative ponds or holding tanks, as well as any chemicals used during washing.

Information on 1400A and 1400B permits, application forms and current fees are available on DEQ's general permit website:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/genpermits.htm>

What is a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS)?

DEQ requires submission of a LUCS with each permit application in order to satisfy state land use planning goals. A Land Use Compatibility Statement is available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/pubs/permithandbook/lucs.pdf>

The LUCS must be completed by the appropriate local government. DEQ cannot issue a permit without a LUCS.

How much do the 1400A and 1400B permits cost?

The initial application fee to register for a 1400A permit is \$510. After the first year, the annual fee for this permit is \$291.

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The initial application fee to register for a 1400B permit is \$845. After the first year, the annual fee for this permit is \$497.

When does the permit expire?

Both the 1400A and 1400B permits will expire on Oct. 31, 2017. Facilities that will continue these activities beyond this date must submit a renewal application to DEQ at least 60 days before the permit expires.

What do you need to monitor?

A permit holder must monitor and record the days waste was land-applied, the volume and location of wastewater applied to land, daily observations of the system, and any system failures. The 1400B permit also requires the permit holder to track nitrogen loads for some treatment systems.

How do you comply with these permits?

Sanitary wastes (sewage) must be kept separate from process wastewater. Process wastewater must be collected and adequately screened before it is land applied on the property where it is generated. The wastewater management plan must include information on agronomic land application practices, pond or evaporative pond storage design, treatment methods and management of solids.

Disposal and storage must be protective of groundwater. Treatment systems for the 1400B must meet performance standards for waste strength and disposal. No discharge is allowed to surface water for either permit.

Are other water quality permits needed?

An operation that produces more than 25,000 gallons per day or discharges to surface water is not eligible for these general permits and must apply for a more costly individual permit.

If you dispose of wastewater using an onsite disposal system, then registration under the DEQ Underground Injection Control Program as a Class V well is also required:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/uic/contacts.htm>

Onsite septic systems designed to treat domestic wastewater (sewage) might also require a permit:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/onsite.htm>

Stormwater runoff material from paved lots, building rooftops and other impervious areas that reach a storm drain, culvert or ditch or channel may require a DEQ 1200Z stormwater permit.

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/stormwater/industrial.htm>

Any pesticide application in, over or within three feet of surface water requires a 2300A pesticide general permit:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/pesticides.htm>

How might wash water or process water affect water quality?

Disposal of food processing wastewater can degrade water quality. Wash water is likely to be high in waste organic material, which uses up oxygen in the water column as it breaks down. Process water is likely to be even higher in organic material, using up oxygen faster and having a greater impact. Process water may also alter water chemistry by shifting the acid/base balance, or by adding nutrients and causing algal blooms.

Wastewater properly applied to land will benefit soil and assist in plant growth.

Where can you get more information?

If you live in Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, or Washington counties: 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232

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Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. For more information call 503-229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Hearing-impaired persons may call 711.