

## Construction Industry Communication #07

**From:** Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official

**Re:** Guideline Requirements for Compliance to Columbus City  
Code 1145.86 – Non-Stormwater Discharge to Storm Sewers

**Date:** September 18, 2017

**Requirements:** Columbus City Code 1145.86 – Non-stormwater discharge to storm sewers states: “Except as authorized by a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or as authorized in-writing by the director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited...”

**Background:** To eliminate confusion regarding the discharge of wastewater into the City’s sanitary and storm sewer systems, the Columbus Division of Water and Power and the Department of Building and Zoning Services have determined that covered drains are not intended to collect only stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g., surface parking lots). Interior or inlets/floor drains that are covered must be directed to the sanitary sewer system.

**Memorandum:** Guideline Requirements for Compliance to City Code Section 1145.86 – for areas such as, but not limited to, parking garages, canopy covered fuel areas, dumpster pads, car washes, loading docks:

- Exterior drains on a roof or top deck of a parking garage must discharge into a storm system.
- Interior drains in parking garages or other covered structures must discharge into a sanitary system.
- Drains located inside structures utilized for vehicle and/or equipment maintenance, repair or service must be routed through an oil/water separator prior to discharge to the sanitary system.
- Waste that is a result of interior floor cleaning must discharge into a sanitary system.
- A fixture **cannot** receive both stormwater and wastewater. If the discharge is a composition or has a potential for discharge of matter other than stormwater, it must be routed to the sanitary system. Curbing surrounding the fixture or the addition of a roof or canopy to prevent stormwater from mixing with discharges to

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the sanitary system may be required.

Additional information associated to standard drawings, the SWD and sanitary manuals may be accessed at the following link: [Stormwater Drainage Manual - City of Columbus, Ohio](#). Questions may also be directed to the Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section at 614-645-6311

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Landowners/Engineers/Developers  
FROM: Jeffrey A. Cox, P.E. Manager, Stormwater and Regulatory Management  
Section  
DATE: June 26, 2017  
RE: Interior Drains, Clarification of Stormwater Plan Approval

All covered interior drains from basement, garage, or other covered areas must be connected to the sanitary sewer system. In general, a separator is required if the drain is from a facility such as a commercial car wash or the area is used for vehicle maintenance or repair.

Columbus City Codes 1145.86, Non-Stormwater Discharge to Storm Sewers, states, "Except as authorized by a valid NPDES permit or as authorized in writing by the Director, any direct or indirect discharge to the storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater is prohibited...". We have determined that covered inlets or drains are not intended to collect stormwater and have the potential for discharge of more concentrated pollutants than exposed storm sewer connections (e.g. surface parking lots).

All proposed connections to the City of Columbus Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) must be shown on the site drainage plans. Approval of site drainage plans is for general conformance to City criteria for site surface drainage of stormwater only.

Connection to the City's separate sanitary sewer system must meet all applicable pretreatment requirements. Please contact Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program at 614-645-5876 for information regarding specific pretreatment requirements.

Please be advised that interior drains are also subject to different design and construction requirements; contact the Department of Building and Zoning Services' Plumbing Section via email at [plumbinginfo@columbus.gov](mailto:plumbinginfo@columbus.gov) or 614-645-6340 for more information.