



**What construction dewatering projects need authorization from King County Industrial Waste Program?**

**1. Who needs construction dewatering authorization from King County?**

If you wish to discharge construction dewatering to the sanitary sewer in King County’s wastewater service area, and your project is not a single-family residence, you will need authorization from both King County Industrial Waste Program and [the local sewer agency](#).

**2. Does it matter if my project is in the combined sewer system (oldest Seattle neighborhoods where stormwater and sewage flow in the same pipe?)**

No. the King County process is the same regardless of where in the system the project is located.

**3. Do I need to apply to King County if my project is a single family residence discharging to the sewer?**

No. King County does not require authorization for dewatering activities for single family residential projects. Check with the local sewer agency.

**4. I plan to discharge to surface water or the stormwater system. Do I need authorization from King County?**

No. This FAQ and King County’s forms are only used for discharge to sanitary sewers. (This includes combined sewers that carry sewage and stormwater in the older parts of Seattle.) Discharge to separated storm sewers or surface water bodies requires permission from other agencies, as shown in the following table.

| <b>Site characteristics</b>        | <b>Agency to contact</b>                 |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Contaminated site any size         | Washington State Department of Ecology   |
| Clean site is bigger than one acre | Washington State Department of Ecology   |
| Clean site is less than one acre   | Local jurisdiction’s storm water utility |

**5. My project is not in King County, why do I need permission from King County?**

[King County’s wastewater service area](#) includes most of urban King County, south Snohomish County, and a small area in Pierce County.



## King County's Application for construction dewatering

### 6. How do I apply for authorization to discharge water from a construction site to the sanitary sewer?

There are four steps:

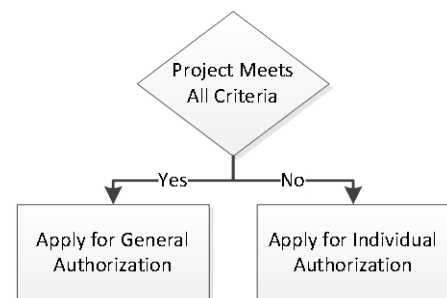
1. Contact the local sewer agency. Confirm they accept water from construction sites. Confirm the location and conditions for discharging to their system. A list of local agencies is available:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/SewerAgencies.aspx>
2. Select your King County construction dewatering application (individual or general).
3. Download, complete, print and sign your application. Scan your signed application and submit it to King County via email: [info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov).
4. Contact the local sewer agency for permission to connect to their system and any additional requirements.

### 7. Does my project need general or individual authorization?

KCIW offers two types of authorizations for discharging construction water to sanitary sewers: Individual and General. Applying for a General Authorization is easier and requires less documentation (no exhibits) than an Individual Authorization. No reporting is necessary once the General Authorization is approved.

You may be able to use the *General Authorization Application for Construction Dewatering* if your project meets all of the criteria summarized here:

- Site is not contaminated.
- Site is less than 1 acre.
- Project will discharge less than 25,000 gallons per day (gpm) to the sanitary sewer.
- Site has a sedimentation tank.



If your project does not meet all of the criteria, you must use the *Individual Authorization Application for Construction Dewatering*.

### 8. Why do I need to get permission from the [local sewer agency](#) prior to discharging to sewer?

King County treats the wastewater from 34 local sewer agencies. Discharge to the sanitary sewer will require a temporary sewer connection to a local sewer. Local sewer pipelines are typically smaller in diameter and are built to convey sanitary wastewater. Discharges from construction dewatering affect these local sewer pipelines. Local agencies may impose conditions and other restrictions.



In addition, all construction projects pay sewer charges to the local sewer agency.

## **Application Signature Requirements**

### **9. Who needs to sign my application?**

An “authorized representative” (typically project owner) must sign the application or formally delegate signature authority to another person or position in writing using the form in the application. If you plan to delegate signature authority, use the Delegation of Signatory Authority form in the application.

### **10. Can I send in my application without a signature?**

No. Your application must be signed by an authorized representative.

### **11. Why is it so important to have an authorized representative sign the form?**

King County Code 28.82.050 requires a signature from an authorized representative because the person signing the form is legally responsible for the accuracy of the application and of subsequent reports.

### **12. What happens if my authorized representative changes jobs?**

You will still need to satisfy the signature requirements. You may need to submit a new Delegation of Signature Authority form before or together with any reports, information, or applications that require signature from an authorized representative. You may authorize a position instead of a person or multiple representatives for situations like this. Use additional copies of the signature delegation page in the application to delegate to multiple people.

## **Submitting the Application**

### **13. When do I send my application?**

You must have written authorization and approval from the local sewer agency to connect before you can discharge to the sewer. Allow sufficient time (see question 18) for all the steps in the process. .

### **14. Where do I send my application?**

Submit your completed application to King County via email: [info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov](mailto:info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov).



## Industrial Waste Program Construction Dewatering Authorization Frequently Asked Questions

February, 2016

### 15. Can I send my forms by mail?

Emailed forms are preferred. If you choose to mail your forms, send two copies to:

King County Industrial Waste Program  
201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 513  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
Phone: 206-477-5300, Fax: 206-263-3001

### 16. What local agency should I contact to get permission to make a connection?

A list of local agencies is available:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/SewerAgencies.aspx>.

### 17. Do I need to get permission from the local sewer agency prior to applying to King County for construction dewatering authorization?

Save time by confirming the local sewer agency accepts water from construction sites before you start the process. Some local agencies do not. If you are applying for Individual Authorization, you will need to provide information from the local jurisdiction in order to complete your application.

## After the Construction Dewatering application is submitted

### 18. How long will it take to get an authorization?

The General Authorization Process may be complete as quickly as 3-10 working days. The Individual Authorization Process takes about 1 to 3 months depending on the complexity of the project. Issues include discharge volume, presence of contamination, treatment system approvals, public notification, and the completeness of the application. An incomplete application may be returned and/or will delay the process.

### 19. Who will receive the approval?

Discharge approval, if required, will be issued to the project owner or authorized representative or the delegated authorized representative

### 20. What happens if I have more than one contractor or industrial activity on my job site?

- Projects eligible for general authorization will receive one authorization for the entire site. The project's authorized representative will need to provide copies to contractors and consultants, as appropriate.
- For projects that may have multiple construction activities and /or other ongoing industrial processes, authorization may be issued for different activities. Contact KCIW for technical assistance and guidance.



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### **21. What kind of authorization should I expect to get? How much will it cost?**

King County provides four levels of authorizations for construction projects, depending on the level of risk the project poses. The fee depends on the level of authorization required. [Fees for each level are listed on the web.](#) Projects eligible for the General Authorization for Construction Dewatering process will pay for and receive a Letter of Authorization.

- Letter of Authorization
- Minor Discharge Authorization
- Major Discharge Authorization
- Discharge Permit

### **22. How do I know which kind of authorization I need?**

King County will determine what you need. The following considerations guide this:

- duration of the dewatering aspect of the project
- volume of wastewater per day (maximum)
- number of discharge points
- type of pretreatment needed, and
- presence of contaminants

## **Questions about the General Authorization for Construction Dewatering Process**

### **23. Can I use the General Authorization Process if my discharge is greater than 25,000 gpd?**

No. The General Authorization can only be issued for projects that discharge less than 25,000 gpd.

### **24. Can I use the General Authorization Process if my site is contaminated?**

No. The General Authorization cannot be issued if your site is contaminated.

### **25. Can I use the General Authorization Process if I have a NPDES permit or NOI from Ecology and I only need a permit from KCIW for relief for up to 25,000 gpd?**

Possibly, if your site is not contaminated, you have adequate storage and have sized your sedimentation tank(s) for up to 25,000 gallons. Submit your application for a General Authorization Process to King County Industrial Waste for consideration.



**26. What is the duration of the General Construction Dewatering Letter of Authorization?**

Two years, unless the applicant specifically asks for a shorter duration.

**27. What happens if I have a General Construction Letter of Authorization and my site conditions change? (For example, I find new contamination on my site, or we realize we may need larger than 25,000 gpd of discharge?)**

You must immediately report any deviation from your original application to KCIW. KCIW may have to change your authorization as a result. You may not be eligible for the General Authorization Process any longer.

### **Construction dewatering between November and April**

**28. My project discharges over 25,000 gpd and I need to discharge between November and April. How do I get permission to discharge to the sewer?**

When our region's heavy rains fill sewer systems, from November through April, large-volume dischargers of construction water (than 25,000 gallons per day) must find other means of disposal than sewers.

To receive approval to discharge more than 25,000 gpd during this period, you must demonstrate one of the following:

- You cannot discharge to surface water or a storm sewer due to site restrictions and/or regulatory restrictions enforced by local, state, and/or federal environmental agencies
- You have another primary option for discharge and are seeking approval to discharge for emergency relief only.

The process is as follows:

1. Use the Individual Authorization Process and describe your situation in detail.
2. Describe your intended primary option for construction dewatering disposal (infiltration, direct surface water discharge, discharge to a separate stormwater sewer, etc.)
3. Include details of relevant information of any permits you have received from other permitting authorities (permit number, issuance date, expiration date).

### **Sedimentation Tank**

**29. Why does my project need a sedimentation (or “settling”) tank?**

Wastewater that goes into the sewer must contain less than 7 milliliters per liter of solids capable of settling. This prevents restricting or blocking flow in sewer lines. A company discharging solids is liable for any damages caused by sewage backups. Construction site [sedimentation tanks are](#) required by King County to remove these solids before water enters the sewer system. Discharge of materials such as ashes, sand, grass, and gravel is prohibited.



## Industrial Waste Program Construction Dewatering Authorization Frequently Asked Questions

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### **30. My project discharges to the sewer continuously, what size should my sedimentation tank be?**

See details here:

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation\\_tanks.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation_tanks.aspx)

### **31. My project discharges to the sewer in batches, what size should my sedimentation tank be?**

See details here:

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation\\_tanks.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation_tanks.aspx)

### **32. Can I use different best management practices, other than a sedimentation tank, to achieve similar results?**

If you are using the General Authorization process, you must use the sedimentation tank standards provided. They were selected because they are the industry standard for cost-effective solutions.

If you wish to use an alternative method, you must apply for Individual Construction Dewatering Authorization. You will need to provide an engineering report. Applications that require engineering review take longer to process than other applications.

### **33. What is the minimum tank size for sedimentation tanks?**

The minimum tank size depends on your rate of discharge and type of sedimentation tank.

- Flow-through discharge: Use a rectangular sedimentation tank with a flow-rate restricted to provide a 90 minute hydraulic retention time.
  - For example: If the flow rate is 200 gallons per minute, use one 18,000 gallon tank to provide 90 minute hydraulic retention time ( $18,000 \text{ gal} / 200 \text{ gal/min} = 90$  minute hydraulic retention time).
  - If water is pumped from the tank, the volume of the tank is based on the level of the pump intake. Under no circumstances will the pump intake be lower than one-half of the tank height.
- Batch discharge: Use a circular sedimentation tank with a minimum volume of 5,000 gallons. This tank may process a maximum of five batch discharges per day. The project will allow at least one hour of quiescent (undisturbed) settling in the tank prior to discharge to the sewer.

See this webpage for details:

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation\\_tanks.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/IndustrialWaste/GettingDischargeApproval/Construction/Sedimentation_tanks.aspx)

## Minimizing flows

### 34. How can my facility minimize the volume of flow going to the sanitary sewer?

The primary waste streams encountered at construction sites are contaminated stormwater runoff and groundwater extraction. Use the following methods to eliminate, reduce, or delay construction dewatering discharge to the sanitary sewer:

- Develop and implement efficient erosion control best management practices and install treatment systems based on all known, available, and reasonable methods of treatment, prevention, and control.
- Discharge construction dewatering to surface waters.
- Minimize surface area draining to sewer.
- Add storage capacity to reduce storms' first flush effects and initial groundwater drawdown volumes.
- Direct point wells dewatering to surface waters (following wells development).
- Reduce size or number of simultaneous open excavations or lengths of open trenches.
- Freeze ground around the excavation.
- Install sheet piling around excavation to reduce groundwater infiltration.
- Install groundwater re-injection (wells) or re-infiltration (trenches).
- Construct slurry walls or secant piles around excavation.
- Consider scheduling work requiring groundwater dewatering to the dry season.