
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Holding Tanks for Floor Drains

Holding tanks that receive wastewater from floor drains in areas where regulated contaminants¹ are used or stored or that will receive non-domestic, non-hazardous wastewater must be registered with the Water Division of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) under New Hampshire Administrative Rules [Env-Wq 402.39](#), "Holding Tank Registrations" for discharges of non-domestic, non-hazardous wastewater.

What Are NHDES' Requirements for Holding Tanks?

- The minimum holding tank capacity must be 1,000 gallons.
- Holding tanks and piping must be watertight and sealed with materials compatible with the liquid or sludge being stored.
- Access must be provided to each compartment of the tank for inspection and cleaning by means of either a removable cover or manhole (minimum diameter 20 inches). Manholes must extend to finished grade.
- The tank must be designed for the expected maximum structural load and ballast must be provided when necessary to prevent structural damage when the tank is emptied.
- The volume between inlet cover and the maximum water depth must be equal to approximately 20% of the liquid volume stored below the maximum water depth. An alarm with both visual and audio signals must be activated once the water level reaches the maximum water depth.
- The holding tank must be registered with NHDES. This can be done online or by downloading a form from the program web page.
- Records of pumping events shall be kept and made available for review if requested by NHDES.

For More Information

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at [\(603\) 271-2513](tel:6032712513) or by email at UICProgramNH@des.nh.gov.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of June 2019. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.

¹ **What is a Regulated Contaminant?** State law defines a regulated contaminant as "any physical, chemical, biological, radiological substance or other matter, other than naturally occurring substances at naturally occurring levels, in water which adversely affects human health or the environment." Consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for the products you use; see the disposal information in the "Spills or Leaks" section of each SDS.