



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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## Do you need a Storm Water Permit before you build?

Yes, if you will be disturbing over an acre of land during the entire building project (farm tillage and conservation practices are not required to get permits). An acre is 43,560 square feet (just over 200' x 200').

### Example 1:

A single residence – you must include the new driveway and the disturbed area on both sides of it, the septic field, the area of the house and the area disturbed around it. If vegetation is removed to install sod or plant grass seed, that area must be included. If all that area is greater than one acre, a NPDES General Permit #2 is required.

### Example 2:

A subdivision with lots that are less than an acre will still be required to get a permit because the total area disturbed will be greater than one acre. Only ONE storm water permit is required for the entire subdivision. Some people prefer to get different permits for different phases of the project.

### Example 3:

A developer has installed roads and utilities on a housing development and has a permit for the site. The developer discontinues the permit. The developer transfers sole responsibility to each new landowner as lots are purchased. The new landowner is required to obtain a permit for their lot prior to construction.

These are only three examples. Many other situations arise. Please contact the DNR office listed at the end of this document if you have questions, or contact the storm water coordinator in Des Moines at 515-281-7017 or 515-281-6782.

A permit is required before any land disturbance is done (this includes prior to putting in roads or utilities).

Who is responsible for applying for the permit? Anyone involved with the project may apply for the permit.

### To get a permit:

- A public notice is required to be sent to one newspaper,
- A pollution prevention plan (PPP) is required to be developed and implemented (requirements for the PPP are located in Part IV of NPDES General Permit #2. Assistance with the PPP is in the Summary Guidance), and
- A notice of intent (application) with proper payment and proof of publication of the public notice (public notice not necessary in Example 3) must be sent to the Storm Water Coordinator in Des Moines. Keep the PPP, so that you AND your contractors can reference it.

Application for storm water permits may be done online at:

[www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/NPDESStormWater.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/NPDESStormWater.aspx)

Any contractors who implement any part of the PPP are required to sign (an executive officer of the company is required) a certification statement in the PPP (wording for statement is found in Part IV of the permit) **AND** state what part of the PPP that they are implementing (move dirt, perform and record inspections, perform maintenance, plant seeds, install sod, install silt fence etc.). The contractor is in violation of operating without a permit if they do not sign the certification statement.

Storm Water forms can be found at:

[www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/NPDESStormWater/Permits,GuidanceForms.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/NPDESStormWater/Permits,GuidanceForms.aspx)

Applications/public notice template/instructions is the first document. NPDES General Permit #2 is the permit that authorization to use for these sites.

Storm water database may be used to determine whether a development has a current authorization or not. Search paramaters that are most effective are the Township (numeral), Range (numeral), Section (numeral) and County (name).

The Storm Water Database can be found at:

[programs.iowadnr.gov/stormwater/pages/advanced.aspx](http://programs.iowadnr.gov/stormwater/pages/advanced.aspx)

The **permit is not valid until** the Storm Water Coordinator issues an authorization for its use for your project.

If you have questions, contact the IDNR Environmental Services Office in Manchester at 563-927-2640. Mail or email Clark Ott at IDNR, 909 W. Main St., Suite 4, Manchester, IA 52057 or [clark.ott@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:clark.ott@dnr.state.ia.us).