



# Prohibited Discharges

Industrial Discharge Control Section

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# Agenda

- DAP & Code Reference
- Prohibited Discharge Concerns
- Examples of prohibited discharges and their impacts
- WSSC Water Discharge Limits
- Reporting requirements for prohibited discharges
- Emergency contacts
- Consequences of prohibited discharges
- Knowledge Check
- Questions?





## Discharge Authorization Permit & Code Reference

Section **I.B.33** of your Discharge Authorization Permit and Chapter 8, Section **804.1** of the WSSC Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code

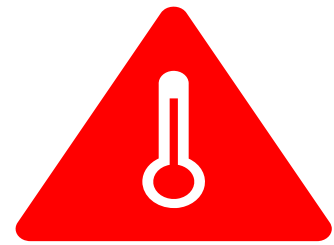
# So what are the concerns? Why does this matter?

- Protecting our wastewater treatment plants and ensuring their functionality.
- Sewer infrastructure, prevention of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and public private property protection.
- Human Health
  - The Public
  - Plant Workers
  - Utility Workers
- Preventing bypass and unnecessary release of pollutants to the environment.



# Prohibited Discharges

- Temperature
  - Cannot exceed 140°F
- Fire or Explosion Hazard
- Public Nuisance or Hazard





# Explosion Hazard Case Study- Louisville Sewer Explosions







# Public Nuisance Example

- A medical laboratory in 2019 was discovered improperly disposing of alcohols, acetone, and xylene into the WSSC sewer system. This resulted in numerous odor complaints to WSSC by nearby public residences/businesses. Nearby residents reported dizziness and headaches. A utility worker responding to the odor complaints became ill from contact with the fumes and was hospitalized as a result. Improper chemical waste disposal can become a serious and dangerous matter!



# Prohibited Discharges

- Interference & Pass-Through
- Excess Coloration



# Excess Coloration Example

- Utility workers performing routine maintenance of a WSSC pump station discover unusual influent entering the wet well. Red discoloration of the wastewater was observed. Source tracked back by IDC to an agricultural source utilizing a red colored fertilizer in process.





# Prohibited Discharges

- Concentrated Releases
- Excess Daily Flow
- Discharge Limitations



# WSSC Water Discharge Limitations

**Table 804.1.9**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Limit<sup>3</sup></b>
<b><i>Inorganics (total)</i></b>	
Arsenic	0.28
Cadmium	0.10
Chromium	7.0
Copper	2.0
Cyanide	0.40
Lead	0.35
Molybdenum	0.35
Nickel	3.4
Selenium	0.40
Silver	0.50
Zinc	4.2
<b><i>Organics</i></b>	
Tetrachloroethylene (Tetrachloroethene)	0.0945
Trichloroethylene (Trichloroethene)	0.026
Total PCBs <sup>4</sup>	<0.001
<b><i>Conventionals</i></b>	
Ammonia	190
Dissolved Solids	5,000
Suspended Solids	3,000
Total Solids	8,000
BOD (5-day, 20°C)	3,000
Total Phosphorous	8
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons	250
Fats, Oil and Grease <sup>5</sup>	200
pH <sup>6</sup>	6.0 - 10.0 units
Temperature	140°F





# Prohibited Discharges

- Radioactive Wastes
- Pathogenic Wastes
- Storm or Ground water





# Storm Water Scenario

- An industry decides to provide secondary containment to a chemical tank farm in case of accidental spillage or release, but decides to plumb the release valve to the WSSC sewer system. Whenever the secondary containment area fills up with stormwater, the facility releases it directly to the sewer system, without any WSSC flow metering on the new connection. Is this prohibited??







# Prohibited Discharges

- Viscous substances
- Obstruction to flow
- Dilution Prohibition
- Hauled Pollutants





# PROTECT YOUR PIPES

No FOG



Never pour  
**FATS, OILS**  
or **GREASE**  
down the drain.

Three Ps



Flush **only**  
**PEE, POOP,**  
and  
toilet **PAPER.**

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55°+



Keep 'em warm!  
Make sure  
temperature  
stays above **55°.**



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# Prohibited Discharges

- Oils
- Glycol
- Pretreatment Residue





# Prohibited Discharges

- Corrosive substances
- Mercury
- Perchloroethylene







# A prohibited discharge occurs at my industry, now what?

## Step 1-

Provide notification to WSSC

Notification shall be made **immediately** by phoning:

301-206-8841 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Regulatory Services Division

8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

*If no answer*

301-206-4002 - WSSC Emergency Call Center



# A prohibited discharge occurs at my industry, now what?

## Step 2-

Provide thorough information of incident to WSSC correspondent.

Information should include the following:

- Industry name, address, and location of spill;
- Date, time, and duration of spill;
- Type of waste, concentration, and volume;
- Corrective action taken, or to be taken;
- Contact person and telephone number; and
- Any additional info as appropriate



# A prohibited discharge occurs at my industry, now what?

## Step 3-

Follow-up with a written report within **5 days**.

Mail or deliver and email this report to:

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
Regulatory Services Division  
Industrial Discharge Control Section  
14501 Sweitzer Lane, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Laurel, MD 20707

[IndustrialDischargeControl@WSSCWater.com](mailto:IndustrialDischargeControl@WSSCWater.com)

Detailed report should include the previous information, as well as:

- A description of the accidental discharge and its cause;
- The duration of the discharge, including exact date(s) and time(s); and
- A description of all steps taken, or to be taken, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent a recurrence of future accidental discharges, other conditions, or noncompliance





# Additional notifications

- **Hazardous Waste Discharges (40 CFR Part 261)**
  - Notify WSSC, EPA, and State Authorities as directed
- **Accidental discharges-refer back to Section I.B.16**
- **Special Conditions outlined in the DAP may require additional reporting, read carefully.**



# Additional consequences to prohibited discharges:

Issuance of **Notice of Violation** and possible **Civil Citation** with associated monetary penalties

Could be placed in **Significant Noncompliance (SNC)**, and published in the local newspaper

Referral to State/Federal entities such as MDE or EPA for further **enforcement action** and possible escalation to **criminal** charges



# Criminal Case Study- Seattle Barrel & Cooperage Company



# Knowledge Check



# Prohibited Discharges- Question #1

- Where do I find information on prohibited discharges again???

Section I.B.33  
of the DAP  
and Section  
804.1 of the  
WSSC  
P&FGC



# Prohibited Discharges- Question #2

- An industrial laundry's pretreatment system hasn't been properly maintained per manufacturer specs and overdoses acid into the wastewater, resulting in a discharge of 1.8 standard units to the WSSC sewer system. Is this prohibited?







# Prohibited Discharges- Question #3

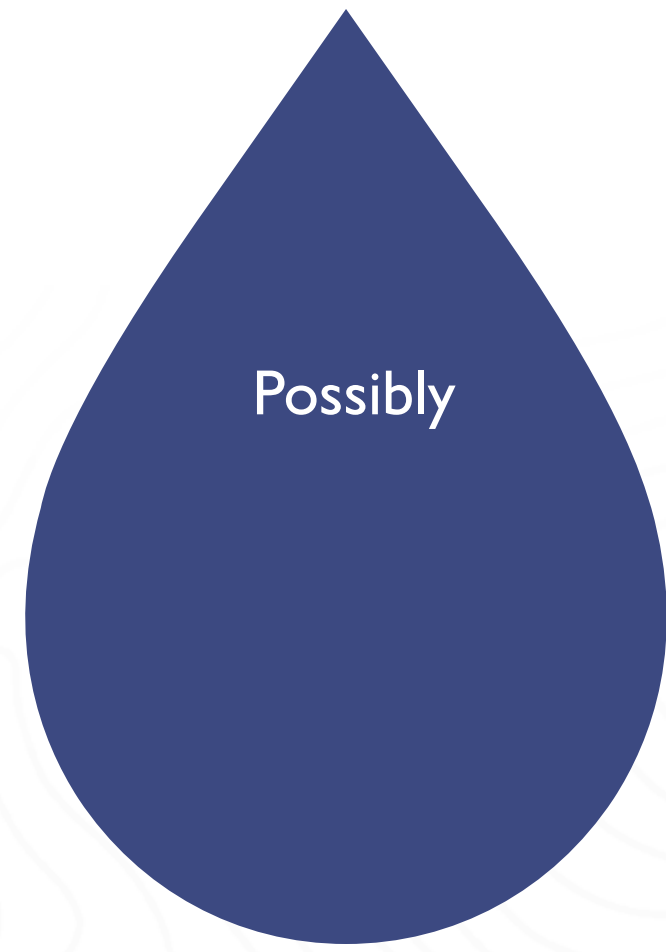
- An industry executive is tired of his facility's roof runoff flooding his reserved parking space and decides to plumb the facility's roof drainage to the WSSC sewer system. Is this prohibited??





# Prohibited Discharges- Question #4

- A beverage manufacturer decides to use a new bright orange dye in their process to produce a promotional Halloween “JACK O SODA” beverage of which they will only make 10,000 cans. They have not notified WSSC of this process change. The dye is not soluble in water. Once bottled, the company decides to dump the excess leftover 20,000 gallons of dye to the WSSC sewer system as it is no longer needed. Is this prohibited?





# Prohibited Discharges- Question #5

- A worker at a chemical company has been ordered by their supervisor to dump unlabeled drums of waste down their drain to the WSSC sewer. The supervisor tells the worker to wear a gas mask while pouring because the fumes are a little strong, but doesn't say what is in the drums. Is this prohibited??







**Questions?**

