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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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## Holding Tanks for Floor Drains

Holding tanks that receive wastewater from floor drains in areas where regulated contaminants<sup>1</sup> are used or stored or that will receive non-domestic, non-hazardous wastewater must be registered with the Water Division of NHDES under New Hampshire Administrative Rules Env-Wq 402.35, "Holding Tank Registration 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 auditory signals must be activated once the water level reaches the maximum water depth.
- The holding tank must be registered with NHDES. Use the form at <https://forms.nh.gov/onlineforms/?FormTag=NHDES-W-03-074>.
- Records of pumping events shall be kept and made available for review, if requested by NHDES.

### For Additional Information

For additional information, please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or [dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov) or visit [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov), click on A-Z List and choose Groundwater Discharges. The "Holding Tank Registration Form" can also be found here. All of the bureau's fact sheets are online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/index.htm>.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of June 2016. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.

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<sup>1</sup> **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 Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for the products you use; see the disposal information in the "Spills or Leaks" section of each MSDS.