

***** Technical Fact Sheet *****
Stormwater Sampling and Analysis

Pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, most industries, construction sites, and municipalities in the United States are now required to obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for discharges of storm water runoff. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issues industrial and construction NPDES permits. Under the California Water Code, state regulatory agencies prevent pollution and protect the quality of surface and ground waters in California by regulating storm water discharge.

➤ ***For what analytes should my storm water samples be tested?***

Dischargers are required to collect and analyze samples for pH, TSS, Specific Conductance, and either Oil & Grease or TOC. Depending on your industry, you may be required to analyze for toxic chemicals and other pollutants that are likely to be present in significant quantities at your site. **It is important to review which analyses you are required to have performed. These are stated in your NPDES permit, and vary from business to business.**

➤ ***When do I collect storm water samples?***

During the storm water season (October 1st - April 30th), dischargers are required to collect and analyze samples of storm water runoff from at least two storm events per year (review your permit for specific details). Each storm event must be one that produces significant storm water discharge and is preceded by at least three working days of dry weather. The grab sample should be collected during the first 30 minutes of a storm event and should be brought to the laboratory for analysis as soon as possible after sampling.

➤ ***Is timing really important?***

Timing is very important because many analyses have short holding times (some as short as 15 minutes), the samples should be maintained at a cold temperature (0 - 6°C) and brought to EMA as soon as possible after collection. Some frequently requested analyses with short holding times are pH, Residual Chlorine, Turbidity, MBAS, Nitrate, and Settleable Solids.

➤ ***Why are sample preservatives important?***

We provide our clients with pre-preserved, labeled sample containers for storm water sampling. The few drops of preservative added to your sample containers are important for maintaining sample integrity as well as compliance with correct sampling procedures as specified by EPA regulations. **Caution: Many preservatives are strong acids or bases. Personal protective equipment including gloves and safety glasses should be worn. Pre-preserved containers should be stored away from direct sunlight, upright, and should NOT be pre-rinsed prior to sample collection.**

➤ ***How can EMA help me with my storm water testing?***

EMA will be glad to answer any additional questions you may have regarding storm water sampling or other analytical needs. We are also pleased to provide our customers with complete sampling kits for stormwater testing. These kits include pre-preserved sample containers, chain-of custody documents, labels, and sampling instructions.

Have more questions? Call our Project Manager at (858) 560-7717 for answers or to request your storm water sampling kits.

E
M
A

EnviroMatrix Analytical, Inc.
4340 Viewridge Avenue, Suite
San Diego, California 92123
Phone: (858) 560-7717
Fax: (858) 560-7763