The University of Kentucky's stormwater permit allows clean water discharges and requires non-storm water discharges to be eliminated or mitigated properly. The University implements Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system. Water removed during construction or maintenance (i.e., dewatering) often contains sediment, oil, and other pollutants which are considered illicit discharges under UK's MS4 permit. To prevent violations and environmental damage, dewatering activities must follow specific procedures.

DO

- ✓ Discharge muddy water into silt fence enclosures installed in vegetative areas away from water ways. Sediment can be removed afterwards once the water has dispersed and the site has stabilized.
- ✓ Use sock filters or sediment filter bags on pump discharge pipes. Use dewatering bags at the end of the discharge hose to filter sediment and oil. Ensure bag size matches the hose diameter and pump flow rate. Tightly strap the bag to the hose to prevent leaks.
- ✓ Install bags in stabilized grassy areas where possible.
- ✓ Install bags on a slope, with optional support from aggregate or hay bales to improve drainage.
- ✓ Inspect bags regularly during operation for rips, tears, or overfilling. Replace bags when damaged or clogged; rupture can cause discharge of pollutants.
- ✓ Immediately dispose of damaged or full bags properly in a dumpster or trash.
- ✓ Reuse bags only if undamaged, uncontaminated, and still functioning effectively.
- ✓ Contact Environmental Quality Management if uncertain about discharge quality or dewatering procedures.



Required Training: 1 per year

Relevant UK Departments:

- Capital Project Management
- Facilities Construction Management
- Utilities and Energy Management

DON'T

- ✗ Don't discharge water that contains pollutants into storm drains.
- ✗ Don't overfill dewatering bags, this can lead to a rupture and an uncontrolled release.
- ✗ Don't reuse a damaged bag or one that leaks or has reduced filtration capacity.
- ✗ Don't bypass the bag or discharge unfiltered water, even during heavy rain.
- ✗ Don't place bags in high-traffic areas where hose strain or physical damage may occur.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➲ Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for bag installation and use.
- ➲ Cover discharge areas or reduce water volume prior to rain events to prevent erosion and overflow.
- ➲ Place signs near dewatering setups to alert site personnel and subcontractors.
- ➲ Train crews on proper dewatering practices during project startup and routine safety meetings.
- ➲ Reinforce procedures laid out in the Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Plan and/or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan during site inspections and pre-construction meetings.
- ➲ Coordinate with Environmental Quality Management (EQM) if oil sheen or unusual pollutants are detected.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Assess pumped water before each dewatering operation.
- ☐ Confirm that a properly sized, functional dewatering bag is installed.
- ☐ Inspect bags for damage before, during, and after use.
- ☐ Record inspection dates and bag replacement and disposal events.
- ☐ Keep spill kits and hose clamps on hand near dewatering equipment.
- ☐ BEFORE and AFTER rain events, verify bags are not overfilled or leaking.
- ☐ Ensure that bag discharge locations are stable and non-erosive.