Utility vaults regularly collect stormwater and ground water in the bottom of the structure that must be removed before work can be completed. This is typically removed from the sump pit with a pump to be discharged to another location. The University's MS4 Permit only allows clean water discharges into the stormwater system and requires that the University implement Best Management Practices to prevent the discharge of pollutants from campus. By removing accumulated debris and taking precautions to prevent spilled chemicals from getting into the utility vaults, impacts to water quality can be avoided.

DO

- ✓ Test water quality before using pit drains to dispose of ground water and stormwater seepage.
- ✓ Remove any accumulated debris from the pit to prevent it from entering the drain pit or pump.
- ✓ Have valves installed in pit drains to allow them to be closed in the event of a spill.
- ✓ Repair visible leaks to the drain sump promptly.
- ✓ Determine whether a drain is necessary. If not, fill the drain with a plumber's plug or concrete.
- ✓ Capture chiller water and return to the system or dispose of it into the sanitary sewer.
- ✓ Consider pit drain conversion to sanitary sewer, if feasible.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't dispose of debris from maintenance tasks in the drain pit or use the drain like a trash can.
- ✗ Don't allow spilled chemicals to get to the drain.
- ✗ Don't pump pit fluids into storm drains without testing the water quality of the discharge.
- ✗ Don't discharge steam condensate into the storm sewer system.



Required Training: 1 per year

Relevant UK Departments:

- Environmental Quality Management
- Facilities Management
- Utilities and Energy Management
- ITS Networking and Infrastructure

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS/INFORMATION

- ➲ Air dried sludge from pit may be disposed in a dumpster, provided it is not hazardous.
- ➲ Contact UK Environmental Quality Management for assistance in managing hazardous sludge from a spill.
- ➲ If the facility is connected to a sanitary sewer, the water (not the hazard waste or sludge) from the pit may be discharged to the sanitary sewer system.
- ➲ An industrial cleaning service should be used to clean pits, drains, and sumps when necessary.
- ➲ If fluid from dewatering of the pit is contaminated with solvents or due to a spill, conduct a hazardous waste determination.
- ➲ If solvents or chemical wastes are spilled, contain the spill and clean up using a spill kit. Contact UK Environmental Quality Management for assistance and refer to the Activity Information Sheet on *Hazardous, Non-Hazardous, and Petroleum Spills* for more information.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Check the drain trap ANNUALLY for debris.
- ☐ Test water quality BEFORE pumping or discharging it.
- ☐ Check the pit ANNUALLY for solids accumulation on the bottom and floating material on the surface.
- ☐ In the event of a spill, close the pit drain valve IMMEDIATELY.