

Existing Land Uses: Floor Drains

Commercial or industrial facilities with shallow injection wells (such as dry wells or septic systems tied to a floor drain) pose a serious threat to Massachusetts' drinking water supplies. In order to minimize the threat from these systems, the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations, 310 CMR 27.00, prohibit discharges of pollutants to injection wells.

The most common point of entry to an injection well in a commercial industry is a floor drain. Where the potential exists for pollutants (e.g. solvents, waste oil, paint thinner,...) to enter the floor drain, the drain must not discharge to an injection well. Local officials should inspect facilities to ensure that their floor drains do not discharge to the ground.

Are existing land uses subject to these regulations?

Yes.

What are some common land uses that use unauthorized injection wells?

- ❖ gas stations and other auto repair shops
- ❖ dry cleaners
- ❖ photoprocessing labs
- ❖ furniture refinishers
- ❖ machine shops
- ❖ other industries

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What steps must a facility with a floor drain connected to an unauthorized injection well take?

Facilities have 3 options:

1. *Seal the floor drain.* The facility must file Form WS1 with the local plumbing inspector beforehand.
2. *Connect the floor drain to a holding tank.* The type of tank depends on whether or not the discharge is a hazardous waste.
3. *Connect the floor drain to a municipal sewer system, if available.* The facility will need a permit from both the DEP and the local sewer authority.

Does a facility need to notify DEP when it eliminates the discharge to the injection well?

Yes. The facility owner must submit the UIC Notification Form. This also applies to facilities that previously closed an injection well.

How should a facility manage its wastes and wastewater in the absence of an injection well?

All facilities should practice waste minimization, and collect, manage, and dispose of each remaining waste stream accordingly. The DEP Division of Hazardous Waste has waste management fact sheets for many commercial industries.

For further information, write the UIC program at the DEP Division of Water Supply, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108, or call 617/292-5770.

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