



Technical Bulletin

General Permit NCG550000

Single Family Residences

and other 100% Domestic Discharges

with Similar Characteristics

Revised

October 30, 2025

Who Is Covered Under This Permit?

This permit covers discharges of treated domestic wastewater from single family residences and other 100% Domestic Discharges with Similar Characteristics at flows not to exceed 1000 gallons per day. Other types of facilities discharging less than 1000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater may be covered under this permit with the approval of the Division.

Who Is Not Covered?

This permit covers discharges to all waters of the State unless otherwise excluded. The following waters are excluded from permit coverage:

- Waters classified as WS-I (Water Supply I)
- Waters classified SA (Market Shellfishing, Salt Water)
- Waters classified as ORW (Outstanding Resource Waters)
- Waters located in the Randleman Lake Watershed.
- New discharges to zero-flow streams [per 15A NCAC 02B .0206 (d)(2)]

Changes in Reissued General Permit

The previous General Permit expired October 31, 2025. The permit has been reissued for an additional five years. The new permit contains the following significant changes from the previous version:

- Clarifying language was added to Part I Section D. in order to distinguish records retention, certified operator, and permit renewal requirements for NCG550000 and the associated requirements in the subsequent standard conditions.
- Specified limitations from coverage (Part I A. (2.)) to clarify drainage easement requirements.
- Added new bullet point under exclusions from coverage (Part I A. (1.)) stating new discharges to zero-flow streams cannot be permitted under NCG550000 per 15A NCAC 02B .0206.
- Updated maintenance timelines under Part I D.(3.) to every three years for septic tank maintenance.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

The NOI requires updated buffer requirements aligning with 15A NCAC 02T.0506, and the sign-off of a professional engineer for all new systems. There were also changes and updates made to the Notice of Intent (NOI) which is filed to gain coverage under this permit, which can be downloaded at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting/general>

Change of Ownership

If the homeowner listed on the Certificate of Coverage were to sell the property, the new homeowner must request a name change on the Certificate of Coverage (per Part II Section E. (4.)) by completing and sending the Division the Permit Name/Ownership Change Form found [here](#).

Key Permit Requirements

- Annual sampling of the effluent from the system is required. The parameters to be sampled can be found in Part I, Section A. A North Carolina certified laboratory should be contacted to perform the analytical monitoring. A list of certified laboratories can be obtained by contacting the Division.
- All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water or substance. (Part II, Section D:1)
- The permittee shall give notice to the Division of any planned physical alterations or additions to the system that could significantly increase the quantity of pollutants discharged or introduce new pollutants to the discharge. These alterations include any types of residence/facility expansions. (Part II, Section E:3)
- Submission of monitoring reports is not required. All monitoring information must be retained on site for a period of 3 years. (Part II, Section E:1)

Minimum Treatment System Requirements

- Dechlorination is now required for all facilities installing chlorination after the effective date of the final permit.
- Risers will be required on all new septic tanks making them easier to locate.
- System requirements for existing (previously constructed) systems are a septic tank, sand filter and disinfection apparatus. All existing facilities adding chlorination after August 1, 2007 will also be required to add dechlorination. System requirements for a new (not yet constructed) system are a septic tank, primary and secondary (or recirculating) sand filters, chlorination/dechlorination (or equivalent means of disinfection) and post-aeration apparatus.
- Treatment components must meet the following setback requirements:
 - Treatment system is located at least 15ft away from a dwelling
 - Treatment system is located at least 100 feet from any other water-supply well either on or off site
 - Treatment system is located above any applicable 100-year flood line
 - Treatment system is located at least 50 ft from property lines

Setback waivers may be issued on a case-by-case basis.

Operation and Maintenance

In order to protect water quality and to ensure proper operation of domestic wastewater systems, the following measures should be taken:

- Check the septic tank every 3 years to see if solids should be removed.
- Have the septic tank pumped out every three years. Contact a local septic service/repair company for this service.
- Inspect disinfection and dechlorination equipment (if applicable) weekly to confirm proper operation.
- If a chlorinator and/or dechlorinator is installed, replace tablets whenever necessary.
- Unless the ultraviolet disinfection unit is monitored by telemetry, the unit shall be checked weekly. The lamp(s) and quartz sleeve(s) shall be cleaned or replaced as needed to ensure proper disinfection.
- Accessible sand filter surfaces shall be raked and leveled every six months and any vegetative growth shall be removed manually.
- All pump and alarm systems shall be inspected monthly.

Tips for Maintaining Your Septic Tank

The septic tank is usually a watertight concrete box buried in the ground outside the house. Wastewaters from the house, including the toilets, shower, bathtub, washing machine and dishwasher flow into the tank. Heavier solid materials settle to the bottom and the liquid flows out of the tank through a pipe to the designated outfall specified in the issued Certificate of Coverage. Both the septic tank and outfall must be properly maintained for the system to work correctly for many years. Some tips for maintaining your septic system are:

- Do not put too much water into the septic system. Try to conserve water wherever possible.
- Do not add materials such as chemicals, wet wipes, sanitary napkins, or other foreign objects.
- Restrict the use of your garbage disposal.
- Do not pour grease or cooking oils down the drain.
- Have the solids pumped out of the septic tank every 3-5 years.
- Keep automobiles and heavy equipment off of the septic tank and discharge location.

Chlorination and Dechlorination Tablets

If the treatment system has a chlorinator or dechlorinator, it is important that there is an adequate supply of tablets to ensure proper operation. There will usually be a white PVC pipe sticking up from the chlorinator/dechlorinator where the tablets should be inserted. Tablets can be obtained from most plumbing supply stores. Make sure that the tablets are certified for wastewater use. Chlorine tablets are NOT the same type of chlorine used for swimming pools.

Signs of Septic System Problems

Some of the signs that your septic system may be having problems are:

- Sewage backing up into your toilets, tubs or sinks.

- Slowly draining fixtures; particularly after it has rained.
- The smell of raw sewage accompanied by soggy soil in the location of the septic system.
- Sewage discharging over the ground or in nearby ditches or woods.

If you see any of these signs, contact a septic repair company in your area.

Right-of-Way

Issuance of this general permit does not relieve the permittee from obtaining all necessary right-of-way or easement rights to discharge wastewater on or across another property.

When considering coverage under General Permit NCG550000, pay close attention to whether or not your proposed discharge requires a drainage easement. Hydrologic trespass refers to any discharge that crosses a property other than the applicant's before joining with a waters of the State, a common example of this would be discharging into a dry ditch that crosses other landowners' properties.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Do I need to submit the monitoring results annually?**
No. The submission of monitoring reports for this permit is not required. There are no standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) associated with this permit. All monitoring results should be kept on site for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, Section E:1)
- 2) Do I need to employ a certified wastewater treatment plant operator to manage and run the system?**
Not at this time. The Division's Operator Training and Certification Unit does not currently plan to classify these types of facilities for the purposes of needing a certified operator.
- 3) Where do I find my stream classification?**
The stream classification, i.e. WS-IV, C, Tr, etc. can usually be found in the Certificate of Coverage or map that accompanies the COC. If you are unsure of your stream classification, you can contact the NPDES Permitting Program.
- 4) Does a certified lab need to be used to analyze samples?**
Yes, a North Carolina certified lab must be used to perform analytical monitoring. The only exception to this rule is when measuring the value of pH. pH values should be measured in the field because they may change considerably between when the sample is pulled and it is analyzed at the laboratory. A list of certified labs is available from the Division.
- 5) What If I Sell My Property?**
The Division views changes of name or ownership as a minor modification and requires the Director's approval. Name and ownership changes require you to complete a Name/Ownership Change Form. The forms are available by contacting the NPDES Permitting Program at (919) 707-9000.



Technical Bulletin
General Permit NCG550000
Single Family Residences
and other 100% Domestic Discharges
with Similar Characteristics

Revised

October 30, 2025

6) When does my permit expire and how do I renew it?

CoCs under NCG550000 will be automatically renewed so long as the CoC holder [permittee] pays all the annual fees for the CoC. No renewal application is required, unless the Division specifically requests one.

Contact Us

For additional information on NPDES wastewater permitting and compliance, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Permitting Section
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617
Phone: (919) 707-9000
Fax: (919) 807-6494

You may also contact the local DWR Regional Office at:

- Asheville: (828) 296-4500
- Fayetteville: (910) 433-3300
- Mooresville: (704) 663-1699
- Raleigh: (919) 791-4200
- Washington: (252) 946-6481
- Wilmington: (910) 796-7215
- Winston-Salem: (336) 776-9800

The DWR Water Quality Permitting Section can be accessed on the internet at:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process/npdes-general-permits>. Copies of the General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application fees, guidance documents, and miscellaneous forms may be downloaded from this web site.

Another source of information on regulatory requirements for all media is the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Environmental Assistance & Customer Service, which can be reached at 1-877-623-6748.