

DEQ’s Pesticide General Permit

Are you planning to apply pesticides to, over, or near state surface waters? If so, be sure to keep in mind state permitting requirements!

Anyone who applies pesticides to, over, or near state surface waters (such that pesticide unavoidably enters a state surface water) must obtain permit coverage under the Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) Pesticide General Permit. Any pesticide application to state surface waters in *any* amount requires permit coverage.

Applying for Permit Coverage

To request coverage for a new project, submit a complete application package to DEQ at least 30 days prior to operation. A complete application package consists of:

- Pesticide Application form, submitted via DEQ’s online permitting system (FACTS): <https://svc.mt.gov/deq/factspermitting>
For FACTS assistance, contact Gina Self at (406) 444-5388 or gself@mt.gov
- New application fee (see table below)

Once authorized, your authorization to discharge under the 2021 General Permit is effective until the expiration of the 2021 General Permit (on October 31, 2026) or until you submit a request to terminate coverage.

The application fee for a new authorization includes the first-year annual fee. Subsequent annual fees are half the initial application fee and are owed for each calendar year you have effective permit coverage. To avoid the accrual of inappropriate annual fees, request to terminate coverage once the application of pesticides has been completed.

	Tier I	Tier II
Single-county	\$50	\$500
Multi-county	\$100	\$1200

Permit Requirements

Permitting requirements for all owners/operators consist of effluent limits, monitoring, and recordkeeping requirements.

Additional Tier II requirements will apply if the total annual treatment area exceeds the annual thresholds specified in the permit or if the proposed discharge is into waterbodies classified as A-Closed or Outstanding Resource Waters. Additional requirements for Tier II owner/operators include the submission of annual report forms and development of a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP).

Resources and Contact Information

By obtaining permit coverage, you can help protect Montana’s waters and ensure you’re complying with state and federal regulations.

More information regarding eligibility, discharge limits, monitoring requirements, and other conditions can be found on DEQ’s website at: <https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance> > Surface Water General Permits (MPDES) > Pesticides – MTG870000 > Pesticides General Permit (Effective 2021)

For any questions, please contact Hannah New (MPDES Permit Writer) at hannah.new@mt.gov or (406) 444-3441.

When you are near surface water, consider avoiding pesticides and maintaining a buffer of trees, shrubs, and native grasses along the edges of rivers, lakes, and ponds. Buffers can slow water runoff and help keep pesticides (and other things like sediment and fertilizer) on land and out of the water.

For more information, contact Tiffany Lyden (DEQ Education and Outreach Specialist) at tiffany.lyden@mt.gov or (406) 444-3576.