



GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE OVERVIEW

FOR FRESH PRODUCE FARMS IN MICHIGAN

WASTEWATER

- Liquid waste discharged directly or indirectly into waters of the state or on the ground that results from industrial, commercial, or municipal processes
- Includes liquid and water-carried process waste from cooling and condensing

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WASH WATER

- Wash water IS considered wastewater
- May contain additives, but not necessary to be considered wastewater (i.e. sanitizers)
- Includes hand wash water from sinks or impermanent hand washing stations used in the production of fruits and vegetables



If you are discharging any wastewater from a washing station or other facilities on the farm either directly or indirectly to waters of the state or the ground

**YOU NEED TO OBTAIN A GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT
(if discharging very small amounts, see page 2 for possible exemption)**

HOW TO OBTAIN A GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT :

1. **Identify** if you are or will be discharging wastewater into the groundwater system(if yes, continue to next steps)
2. **Create** an account on the Michigan EGLE MiWaters Online Page
<https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/external/home>
3. **Start** your groundwater discharge permit application
4. **Submit** your groundwater discharge application
5. **Contact** EGLE with questions, you can find the contact for your county by visiting:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-31gw-staff_344962_7.pdf

EXEMPTIONS:

A farm that is discharging at low daily rates may be eligible for a groundwater discharge exemption. For more information on this please call Groundwater Discharge Permits staff using the information below.

Be sure to contact EGLE staff regarding any questions regarding rules for groundwater discharge.

Groundwater Discharge Program Staff Contact:

Website:

www.mi.gov/groundwaterdischarge

Groundwater Discharge Permits Phone:

517-284-5570



Groundwater Discharge Compliance Staff Map:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-31gw-staff_344962_7.pdf

Diagram Notes:

- This diagram is provided as a generic example; individual situations may vary.
- Options available for discharge of produce wash water (a process wastewater) vary depending on the volume and strength of the wastewater. Water sampling (wastewater characterization) may be required to determine wastewater strength.
- The wastewater discharge must be reviewed and approved prior to any future modification, addition, or change in the system.

