

Chapter 43: [Wastewater](#)

Floor Drain Requirements

Product ID: [801](#) | Revision ID: 2916 | Date published: 17 July 2026 | Date effective: 17 July 2026

URL: <https://www-esh.slac.stanford.edu/eshmanual/references/wastewaterRegFloorDrain.pdf>

1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to protect water quality and maintain compliance with SLAC's [wastewater permit](#) by minimizing the potential for accidental release of hazardous chemicals to the sanitary sewer.

These requirements cover design, construction, and use of floor drains inside buildings.

They apply to workers, supervisors, and area/building managers.

2 Requirements

2.1 Safety Shower and Eyewash Stations

1. Where feasible, floor drains should be installed below or near safety showers, with the floor sloped sufficiently to direct water from the shower into the sanitary sewer drain.
2. Any floor drain that may be in service during safety shower use must be installed with a temporary plug that remains closed except when the shower is in use or protected from spills by a covered sump or berm system.
3. If a safety shower is used, promptly inform the wastewater manager of the shower use and involved chemicals to facilitate potential sewer agency reporting. (See the [Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Use Procedure](#).)



Figure 1 Examples of Acceptable Floor Drain Plugs and Covers

2.2 Chemical or Hazardous Waste Storage Areas

1. Floor drains are prohibited in areas where hazardous materials or hazardous wastes are used or stored.
2. If floor drains are present in these areas, they must be protected from spills via plugs, covers, or other secondary containment such as berms or dikes.

2.3 Machining, Craft Shops, and Other Industrial Areas

1. All floor drains must be kept closed during periods of equipment operation. This can be accomplished through fail-safe valves, plugs, or covers.

2.4 Floor Drain Protection

It is the responsibility of the building manager to ensure floor drains are adequately protected.

1. Cap or plug floor drains that are not serving a useful and lawful purpose.
2. Use drip pans or similar devices to collect vehicle fluids before they reach the floor drain system.
3. Never put fluids like oil, solvents, paints or chemicals into a floor drain.
4. Install screens in drains to prevent solids from entering the floor drain system.
5. Develop and implement a maintenance schedule for inspecting and cleaning the floor drain system.
6. Prepare and train for emergencies. Have a plan in place to clean up a spill quickly before it escapes.

7. Keep floors as clean as possible. Use dry cleaning methods such as sweeping instead of water cleanup, whenever possible.
8. Consider sealing shop floors with epoxy or another suitable sealant.

3 Forms

The following forms and systems are required by these requirements:

- None

4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for these requirements:

- None

5 References

[SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual](#) (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- [Chapter 43, “Wastewater”](#)
 - [Wastewater: General Requirements](#) (SLAC-I-750-0A16S-015)
- [Chapter 16, “Spills”](#)
- [Chapter 17, “Hazardous Waste”](#)
- [Chapter 40, “Chemical Lifecycle Management”](#)
- [Chapter 53, “Chemical Safety”](#)
 - [Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Use Procedure](#) (SLAC-I-730-0A09C-008)
- [Chapter 58, “Laboratory Safety”](#)
 - [Laboratory Safety: Non-hazardous Waste Sink Disposal Procedure](#) (SLAC-I-730-0A09C-009)

Other SLAC Documents

- [Environment Resources](#)

Other Documents

- Silicon Valley Clean Water and West Bay Sanitary District. Mandatory Wastewater Discharge Permit No. WB 211216 ([WB 211216](#))