

# *DWQ Guidance for Floor Drain Discharges from Public Drinking Water Well Houses & Pump Houses*

## ***Best Management Practices (BMPs)***

BMPs are structural, operational, educational, and informational practices that when used singly or in combination, prevent or reduce the pollution of water. Water utilities are encouraged to implement the following BMPs to minimize contaminant discharges into floor drains in well houses and pump houses.

## ***Employee Training***

Providing ongoing education and training of employees on the pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices described in this fact sheet will ensure that these practices are understood and consistently applied. Stenciling or painting around the drain or providing signage will remind employees of the risk of pollution.

## ***Discharges to Storm Water Systems***

Storm water is commonly transported through storm water systems for ultimate discharge into Utah's receiving waters. Storm drains, unlike wastewater treatment plants, do not treat the water before it reaches canals, rivers, lakes, and streams. Storm drains are not designed to remove pollutants so the following BMPs will help minimize the threat of pollutants discharged via floor drains located in drinking water well houses and pump houses.

## ***Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping:***

- Do not store chemicals unrelated to water supply treatment or distribution in the well/pump house.
- Use secondary containment or protective barriers for the storage of water supply treatment chemicals.
- Install berms around all areas with pumps or engines that require periodic oil/fluid changes.
- Temporarily isolate and protect all floor drains during work that uses potential contaminants.

Utah Division of Water  
Quality  
April 2016

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Floor Drain in Typical Well House

- Immediately clean all potential contaminant spills/leaks to the well/pump house floor using dry cleaning methods (i.e, rags, absorbents). Properly dispose of the collected wastes.
- Keep the well/pump house floor clean. When possible, floors should be dry-cleaned by sweeping for the removal of dirt and debris. Water should be used for cleaning only when absolutely necessary at which time the floor drains must be temporarily sealed/isolated and wash water contained, collected and properly disposed.

### ***Discharges to UIC Class V Special Drainage Wells***

Well houses and pump houses are located within Drinking Water Source Protection Zone 1 of the public drinking water well. When fluid entering a floor drains in a well or house is discharged to a dry well or a drainage field, that fluid poses a potential for impacting the underlying ground water. These discharges fall under the regulatory authority of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program and are classified as Class V Special Drainage Wells. It is imperative that employees working in and around well and pump houses be aware of the potential risk associated with having a UIC drainage well within a source protection zone. Applying and utilizing the following BMPs will greatly reduce the risk of polluting our drinking water sources.

### ***Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping:***

- Utilize dry cleanup methods such as sweeping for removal of dirt and debris, or use rags and absorbents for leaks and spills. Properly dispose of collected wastes.
- Utilize drain inlet protection devices such as covers or filter inserts.
- Use secondary containment or protective barriers for storage of chemicals related to water supply treatment or distribution.