

# Model Sewer Regulations For Downspout Disconnection

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF SANITARY AND COMBINED SEWERS AND STORM DRAINS OF THE BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

Adopted February 27, 1998

### Section 4 - Wastewater-Stormwater Separation.

(a) The plumbing of any existing or new building shall be so constructed as to keep all stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof and surface runoff, subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, and uncontaminated industrial process water, non-contact cooling water, and non-contact industrial process water separate from sanitary sewage and industrial wastes, and from the building sewer.

(b) The building drain conveying wastewater from plumbing fixtures within the building shall discharge to a building sewer, while the building drain conveying stormwater and other drainage shall discharge to a building storm drain.

(c) Where separate storm drains and sanitary sewers are provided, and the Commission has determined that on-site retainage of stormwater is not possible, building storm drains shall be connected to a storm drain. Connection of a building storm drain to a sanitary sewer is prohibited.

(d) Where separate storm drains and sanitary sewers are provided, building sewers shall be connected to a sanitary sewer. Connection of a building sewer to a storm drain is prohibited.

(e) Where only a combined sewer has been provided, and the Commission has determined that on-site retainage of stormwater is not possible, the separate building storm drain shall be connected to the building sewer in a manner prescribed by the Commission's



Requirements for Site Plans and the building sewer connection shall be made to such combined sewer.

(f) The Commission shall require an owner to eliminate a source of infiltration or inflow whenever the Commission determines that the source is resulting in excessive infiltration or inflow to be discharged directly or indirectly to the sanitary sewer system.

### **Section 5 - Connections to Combined Sewers.**

In order to prevent the direct discharge of wastewater to receiving waters under dry weather conditions, a building sewer shall not be connected to a combined sewer overflow.

### **Section 6 - Connections to Manholes.**

Building sewer connections for new or substantially rehabilitated buildings shall not be made directly to Commission-owned manholes unless expressly authorized in writing by the Commission.

### **Section 7 - Connections to Catch Basins.**

Private drains, including but not limited to, building storm drains for new or existing buildings and drains from irrigation systems, shall not be connected directly to catch basins.

### **Section 8 - Connections from Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems.**

Connection of an individual wastewater disposal system, whether directly or indirectly, to a Commission sewer or drain is prohibited.

### **Section 7 - Connections to Catch Basins.**

Private drains, including but not limited to, building storm drains for new or existing buildings and drains from irrigation systems, shall not be connected directly to catch basins.

### **Section 8 - Connections from Individual Wastewater Disposal Systems.**

Connection of an individual wastewater disposal system, whether directly or indirectly, to a Commission sewer or drain is prohibited.

### **Section 9 - Dye Testing of Connections.**

Prior to activating water service, every new building sewer shall be dye tested by the Commission, or by the owner or his designee in the presence of a Commission inspector, to establish that the building sewer is properly connected to the Commission's wastewater system. The Commission may conduct dye testing of an existing building sewer to establish that it is properly connected to the Commission's wastewater system. The

Commission may require the owner forthwith to eliminate a connection from a building sewer to a storm drain (also referred to as an illegal connection) at the owner's expense. Where separate sanitary sewers and storm drains exist, the Commission may also dye test, or require the owner to dye test in the presence of a Commission inspector, a new or existing building storm drain to establish that the building storm drain is properly connected to the Commission's storm drainage system. The Commission may also require the owner forthwith to eliminate a connection from a building storm drain to a sanitary sewer at the owner's expense.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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