

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 13

What is Chapter 13?

Chapter 13 Surface Water and Stormwater Rule is located [here](#).

The rule applies in MMSD's 28 municipalities and helps keep us safer during big rain events. Chapter 13 requires that property owners who add impervious surface to their land manage rain where it falls and reduce runoff.

What is impervious surface?

Impervious surfaces, like your driveway and roof, do not allow water to soak into the ground. Your lawn, on the other hand, is pervious because it allows water to soak into the ground.

What does Chapter 13 do?

When people develop or redevelop their property, Chapter 13 requires actions that help manage the volume and rate of water that runs off the land. If more rain flows to roads and rivers, it increases the risks of flooding and can be dangerous. Chapter 13 requires infrastructure like ponds, rain gardens, rain barrels, and porous pavement that will keep water where it falls or slow down water that flows offsite during storms.

How do I know if Chapter 13 applies to me?

If you are adding between 5,000 square feet and ½ acre of impervious surface, then you will need to control runoff using Green Infrastructure (GI). If you are adding more than ½ acre of impervious surface, then you will need an engineer to develop a stormwater management plan. All these plans are sent to your municipality and then to MMSD. Exceptions apply in certain cases. Are you adding impervious surface to your property? If you are, give us a call (414) 225-2178.

What is green infrastructure?

It's a cost-effective, sustainable way to capture and store rainwater and melting snow. GI can take the form of rain barrels, rain gardens, trees, porous pavers, green roofs, cisterns, and bioswales. Learn more here: <https://www.freshcoastguardians.com/>

What changed in Chapter 13?

More landowners, including some homeowners, will need to manage rain where it falls because the threshold for managing runoff is going down from ½ acre of new impervious surface to 5,000 square feet. Also, we are reorganizing Chapter 13 to make it easier to read.

You can find proposed changes to Chapter 13 on our Public Notices page.

What is a green infrastructure plan?

For sites that add between 5,000 square feet and ½ acre of impervious area, a simple green infrastructure plan describes the new impervious surface and the green infrastructure that will be used to manage runoff. MMSD and the Fresh Coast Resource Center can walk you through the process. We can help you figure out the amount of green infrastructure needed and the best location for it. For sites that add ½ acre of impervious area or more, you will need an engineer to develop a more detailed stormwater management plan.

How much GI do I need?

If you add between 5,000 square feet and ½ acre of impervious surface, you need to hold the amount of rainfall that equals ½” of rain across the added impervious area. So, if you add 5,000 square feet of impervious area, you need 1,559 gallons of GI capacity.

Do you need help with your simple green infrastructure plan?

[Make an appointment to see an expert at the Fresh Coast Resource Center.](#)

We can help you:

- [Evaluate green infrastructure options](#)
- Find possible [funding sources](#), and
- [Help you prepare your Chapter 13 GI plan.](#)

For Stormwater Runoff Management Plans, contact your municipality.

I have my green infrastructure plan done, now what do I do?

Plans are submitted to your municipality first, then to MMSD.

Who can I contact for more information?

At MMSD, you can call Micki Klappa-Sullivan, at 414-225-2178 or email at

MKlappaSullivan@mmsd.com, or find your municipal contact here (<https://www.mmsd.com/about-us/contact-us/municipality-contacts>)