Frequently Asked Questions

What is the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD)?

The STGPD is a program designed to help protect the City of Tacoma's drinking water. The STGPD area is located above the South Tacoma aquifer and can provide the City up to 40% of its drinking water, particularly in the summer.

Who is affected by the STGPD?

The STGPD program regulates businesses with aboveground or underground storage tanks or hazardous substances at regulated quantities (product and waste totaling 220 pounds or more), and stormwater infiltration units. We do not regulate private homes.

How do I get a STGPD permit?

To get a STGPD permit, complete a STGPD application and submit the New Facility fee. Find applications online at www.tpchd.org/stgpd under business resources. We will then issue your facility a permit and inspect it.

How much does a new facility permit cost?

STGPD fees are listed on our fee schedule and may change from year to year. The initial permit cost is generally higher because it includes an initial review of the STGPD application, site inspections and time to bring a facility into compliance with requirements. Annual renewal permits cost less as they typically require less time.

Which annual permit class will apply to my business?

STGPD annual permits are divided into two classes. Your facility will be assigned a permit class based on your application and our initial inspection. Please see the fee schedule for fee amounts.

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>• Regulated Business with &lt;1000 Gallons of Hazardous Substances on Site; or&lt;br&gt; • Infiltration System Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>• Regulated Business with &gt;1000 Gallons of Hazardous Substances on Site; or&lt;br&gt; • Regulated Business with an Infiltration System and Hazardous Substances (any quantity)</td>
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How often will my business be inspected?

During the initial site visit, the Health Department representative will collect facility and hazardous substance information and provide guidance on the requirements. As necessary, follow-up site visits will be performed for any unresolved compliance issues.

Permitted STGPD facilities are typically inspected every other year. Facility inspections may be more frequent based on compliance issues or large quantities of hazardous substances.
What happens if my business is not in compliance with STGPD requirements?

The Health Department will work with your business to come into compliance with STGPD requirements through education and technical assistance. If a regulated facility is not progressing or refuses to comply with STGPD requirements, the Health Department has various enforcement mechanisms it can impose such as fines, revocation of your business license, or having the business’ water supply shut off.

Are there any incentive programs to offset the cost of the STGPD program?

Yes. A STGPD-permitted facility can apply to become an EnviroStars-certified business. EnviroStars is a free and voluntary program that promotes the proper handling and reduction of both chemical and solid wastes. Businesses that successfully obtain and maintain their EnviroStars certification receive a discount on their annual STGPD permit fee. The amount of the discount may change from year to year.

EnviroStars-certified businesses receive recertification visits instead of STGPD inspections. However, these businesses are still required to comply with all conditions of the STGPD permit and regulation. For more information, call the Health Department’s EnviroStars Program at (253) 798-6429 or visit www.envirostars.org.

Who can I contact for more information or questions about the STGPD?

Contact the Health Department's STGPD Program at (253) 798-3589, stgpd@tpchd.org, or our website at www(tpchd.org/stgpd).