

MANAGING CONCRETE WASHOUT



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: THIS CONCRETE DISPOSAL AREA IS CLEARLY DEMARCATED, LARGE ENOUGH, AND CONSTRUCTED BELOW GRADE TO MAXIMIZE CONTAINMENT.

As a concrete company or contractor, you have important responsibilities for protecting plants, animals, people and waterways from concrete waste and wash water. Clean Water Services (CWS) is here to help you implement proper concrete management on the construction site.

Why does it matter?

Concrete contains heavy metals and significant amounts of sediment; it is highly alkaline and corrosive. For these reasons and more, concrete material can have a significant negative impact on fish and other aquatic organisms. Exposure to concrete can also affect groundwater quality, stream pH, tree growth, and other elements of a healthy environment.

How to keep construction site concrete out of local waterways

- Keep washout area at least 50 feet from streets, storm drains, open ditches and streams.
- Contain the disposal to keep concrete from flowing down slope.
- Use washout area only for chutes, tools and equipment.
- Install storm drain protection at any inlets that are down grade from the washout.

DEQ rules effective 12/15/15

For managing concrete at construction sites covered under 1200 C and 1200 CN permits

(a) Wash concrete trucks and equipment off site (in an appropriately protected area) or in designated concrete washout areas only.

(b) Direct all wash water into a pit or leak-proof container. The pit does not need to be lined or leak-proof, but the pit or container must be designed so that no overflows can occur due to inadequate sizing or precipitation. Concrete wash water must not adversely affect groundwater.

(c) Handle (for example, through disposal, reuse or recycling) wash water as waste. Do not dispose of concrete wash water or wash out concrete trucks onto the ground, or into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams.

(d) Do not dump excess concrete on site, except in designated concrete washout areas.

(e) Handle (for example, through disposal, reuse or recycling) hardened concrete waste consistent with handling of other construction wastes.

(f) Concrete spillage or concrete discharge to surface waters of the state is prohibited.

— from Section 8(ii)2 of DEQ 1200C/CN permit

