



Protecting our environment is an everyday part of doing business.

You have a responsibility and an obligation to follow federal, state and local rules and regulations for pollution prevention. Make sure you take the necessary steps toward putting your business in total compliance.

Visit www.OmahaStormwater.org for more information.



Job Site Questions?

For additional information about concrete slurry and washouts, please contact:

Environmental Quality Control Division
City of Omaha
5600 S. 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68107
402-444-3908

The City of Omaha Stormwater Program is a comprehensive program comprised of various elements and activities designed to reduce stormwater pollution and eliminate prohibited non-stormwater discharges.



Environmental Quality Control

402-444-3908

OmahaStormwater.org

Best Management Practices for Concrete Masonry And Ready Mix Professionals



Did You Know...

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, sediment is considered the most common pollutant in rivers, streams and reservoirs. It's estimated that sediment causes \$16 billion in damage each year. Sediment clouds water and prevents aquatic plants from getting adequate sunlight to grow. It also clogs the gills of fish and reduces the depth of waterways.

This is a message from the City of Omaha Environmental Quality Control Division. Funded By Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Know Your Role In Protecting The Environment



Concrete Slurry And Its Environmental Impact

During the cutting and grinding of concrete at a job site, superfine particles of dust are produced. Water that is used to cool the cutting tools mixes with the dust and creates a sludge known as concrete slurry. Concrete slurry is highly alkaline – similar to drain cleaner – must always be contained and properly managed.

Slurry must not be allowed to enter storm drains or other waterways and should never flow across the pavement or be left on the surface of the pavement. The result is that this caustic and corrosive mixture enters our local water resources and creates severe problems for the local environment including water quality, plants, and animals. Concrete slurry significantly impacts fish and habitat by killing food sources and causing damage to the gills, eyes, and skin of fish.

Uncontrolled concrete washout discharges are illegal and can result in fines and other penalties.

Create Concrete Washouts For Effective Containment

Concrete washout systems are the preferred Best Management Practice (BMP) on construction sites. These washouts are used to contain concrete slurry residue and liquid from washing concrete machinery and allow the liquid residue to solidify for safe and easy disposal.

Different types of washout containers are available for collecting, retaining, and recycling the wastewater. Washout pits and vinyl or metal washout containers should be placed as close as possible to the area where the concrete is being poured. Do not place washouts within 50 feet of storm drains, open ditches or bodies of water.

Use gravel or rock to cover approaches to concrete washout facilities that are located on undeveloped property. If the washout facility is out of view of the pour location, provide signage to direct the truck driver.

Washout facilities should be inspected daily and after heavy rain. Check for leaks and for damage to linings and sidewalls. To avoid overflows, don't allow the washout to exceed 75 percent of its capacity. At this point vacuum off the wastewater and allow the liquid residue to solidify for safe and easy disposal.

Stay In Compliance:

Follow these simple Best Management Practices and prepare a plan to contain concrete slurry and prevent illicit discharges from leaving your job site and contaminating our waterways.

- Employees, subcontractors, and suppliers should be educated on your concrete waste management plans.
- Concrete slurry should be captured immediately. This can be accomplished by creating an impermeable barrier to hold the slurry, using a vacuum to collect it, absorbent to clean up the residue, and disposing of it properly into a concrete washout or other container.
- Washout of concrete mixer trucks should be performed at designated facilities or into the truck's on-board washout system.
- Temporary concrete washout facilities should have adequate signage.
- Facilities must be watertight and lined as needed to prevent any leaking.
- Inspections of washouts should be scheduled regularly.
- Temporary concrete washout facilities must be located a minimum of 50 feet from storm drain inlets, open drainage facilities, and waterways.
- Each washout facility should be located away from construction traffic or access areas to prevent disturbance or tracking.
- Washout facilities can be constructed above grade or below grade at the discretion of the contractor.
- The facilities should be constructed and maintained in sufficient quantity and size to contain all liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.
- Once allowed to harden, the concrete should be broken up, removed, and disposed of in accordance with city, state, and federal codes.
- Holes, depressions, or other disturbances caused by the removal of the temporary concrete washout facility should be backfilled and repaired.