

Are You Ready?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issued a new construction requirement in 2008. It contains specific new regulations for managing concrete washout on construction sites:

"All liquid and solid wastes generated by concrete washout operations must be contained in a leak-proof containment facility or impermeable liner. A compacted clay liner that does not allow washout liquids to enter ground water is considered an impermeable liner. The liquid and solid wastes must not contact the ground, and there must not be runoff from the concrete washout operations or areas. Liquid and solid wastes must be disposed of properly and in compliance with MPCA regulations. A sign must be installed adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facilities".

The City of Litchfield is requiring that all permitted sites follow MPCA guidelines and contain a concrete washout. These washouts will need to be inspected weekly by the permit holder.



City of Litchfield
Department of Environmental Services
Stormwater Utility
126 Marshall Avenue North
Litchfield, MN 55355
Phone: 320-693-7201
www.ci.litchfield.mn.us



Managing Concrete Washout

► Stormwater Utility

Phone: 320-693-7201

Concrete Concerns

The residue and contaminants from washing concrete trucks, pumps, mixers, chutes, hand tools, and wheelbarrows is called "concrete washout". Cementitious products (like grout, mortar, plaster, and stucco) and activities (saw cutting, coring, grinding, and grooving) can also result in concrete washout.

This type of waste is highly alkaline (pH12), caustic, and corrosive. When it is not properly managed, it can pollute surface water and groundwater by changing its pH, increasing the toxicity of other substances, and reducing water clarity. Each of these changes is detrimental to aquatic life and their habitats.

Concrete washout that is dumped on the ground and absorbed into the soil can substantially alter the soil and inhibit future plant growth.



Management Tips

- Train employees and subcontractors so they do not dump concrete washout on the ground or allow it to enter storm drains, open ditches, streets, and waterways.
- When feasible, truck washout should occur at the concrete plant.
- When washout is needed on a construction site, use temporary storage facilities large enough to contain the liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.
- Keep washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, open ditches, and water bodies and install signs instructing operators to use the facility.
- One containment option is to use manufactured, watertight, portable washout containers.
- Alternatively, a plastic-lined containment area such as a holding pit, bermed basin, roll-off-bin, or portable tank that prevents runoff from entering it can be constructed. The liner should follow the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidelines.
- When pavement is absent, construct a stabilized vehicle entrance to the containment area.
- Keep containment areas away from construction traffic to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage and spills.
- Inspect the containment areas daily to ensure the sidewalls are intact, leaks are absent, and adequate capacity remains.
- Cover the containment area before rainstorms to prevent overflows.
- Washout facilities must be cleaned, or new facilities constructed and ready for use, once the washout container is 75% full.
- Hardened solids can be crushed and hauled away for recycling or disposed of properly and must comply with MPCA disposal requirements.
- Place new plastic in the containment facility each time it is cleaned and complete other needed repairs before using the containment facility again.

