

Concrete Washout Systems, Inc.

Construction sites have long been identified as a large contributor to urban runoff pollution if the proper pollution prevention practices are not regularly performed. Materials washed into the storm drain have a direct impact on local waterways and habitat living in that environment.

The most common discharge into our storm drains from concrete construction is the residue and contaminants from washing down equipment such as concrete trucks, pumps, mixers, chutes, hand tools and wheelbarrows. It also comes from other cementitious type products such as grout, mortar and stucco. Concrete or cementitious washout wastewater is caustic and considered to be corrosive with a pH near 12, essentially the same as Liquid Drano® or other household cleaning detergents. The primary ingredient in ready mixed concrete is Portland Cement, which consists of Portland Cement Clinker, Calcium Sulfate, Calcium and Magnesium Oxide, metals and trace elements of potassium and sodium sulfate compounds, chromium compounds and nickel compounds.

Due to this high potential for urban runoff pollution, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has stepped up their efforts to keep Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP's) compliant to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES). All of these mandated criteria are part of the US Clean Water Act and mandates the utilization of Best Management Practices (BMP's) on construction sites. Potential discharges into the storm drain systems from concrete work has become a priority of the federal and state EPA, water quality control officials, regional and local inspectors as well as a strategic target of the advocacy and environmental groups.

Concrete Washout Systems, Inc. (CWS) has addressed this serious challenge in keeping regulatory agencies and advocacy groups satisfied while protecting and balancing the interests of the concrete and construction industry. CWS has developed a BMP that not only meets SWPPP guidelines, but also exceeds them. In doing this, CWS is making every effort to protect the concrete and building industries and minimize regulatory fines and civil liabilities.

The patent-pending washout bin is a portable, self-contained and watertight roll-off bin that controls, captures and contains concrete washout material and runoff. The washout bin includes several unique design features including, steel folding ramps to accommodate almost all concrete pump hoppers, a high-grade plastic interior lining to assist in extracting the washout material and a watertight bin and seal to eliminate any wastewater discharge. The washout bin is capable of holding approximately 5.5 yards of material, which is equivalent to washing out approximately 38 concrete trucks and 2 concrete pumps.

This system and method allows trade personnel to easily washout concrete trucks, pumps and equipment on site and facilitates easy off site recycling of the same concrete materials and wastewater, while protecting the storm drain system from potential illegal discharges. This system replaces other outdated washout BMP's, which are costly, unsightly and damaging to the environment since their containment value diminishes, do to inherently faulty material, over use and lack of maintenance.

CWS is currently being used by some of the largest residential and commercial builders in the country with tremendous success. CWS has assisted these builders in lowering their operational costs relating to concrete washout containment, overall cleanliness of jobsites, maximizing operational efficiency and keeping them in compliance, while balancing the needs of the building industry.

"The Concrete Washout Bin virtually eliminated our concerns over SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans) violations relating to concrete washout." Mike Shultz, Superintendent - Beazer Homes

"The Concrete Washout Bin is great! It's a one-call service. The old hay bale washout pits that we had were a big hassle to deal with. Now I don't have to worry. No more headaches over clean up and no more SWPPP concerns. Your service is great and makes my life much easier." George Cosgrove, Superintendent - Frontier Homes

If the definition of Best Management Practices truly means *BEST* in an effort to protect the environment, comply with regulatory guidelines and enable the concrete and building industries to minimize liabilities affordably...The Concrete Washout System is *THE BMP* for concrete washout containment!

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