



Important Information for Concrete Manufacturers and Handlers

Dear Owner, Operator or Manager,

The Rock River and its communities need your help. When wet concrete, grout, plaster and other materials are washed into the street, they go directly from the storm drains to the local river or stream. Concrete washout is highly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. It also contains sediment that coats the stream bed and destroys habitat. Because concrete is one of the most common building materials in the world, your role is so important in protecting our water.

As a **businessperson**, you know the importance of complying with codes and ordinances to prevent citations and fees. As a **citizen**, you know how important it is for the community, economy and your family to have clean rivers, lakes and streams.

We are reaching out to professionals like you who work with concrete to ask you to educate your workers on proper procedures. To help you educate staff about correct methods for washing, we have enclosed a simple and easy instructional guide for you to share with your employees. Also enclosed are stickers to apply to the driver's side door of each of your trucks that will help remind drivers to follow washing guidelines. For you to help in the effort, we included on the back of this letter, tips and reminders regarding legal requirements, facility maintenance and business operations.

The sticker and educational materials are provided by the Rock River Stormwater Group to help you remind and educate all your staff and others working with concrete about the **proper** and **safe** way to clean and dispose of concrete material.

I hope you will use these materials in support of the *Clean Water. Bright Future.* campaign that aims to reduce water pollution in the region to help ensure that we have clean water for fishing, boating, swimming, and drinking for generations to come. As the Rock River Stormwater Group education coordinator, I am happy to answer any questions send more stickers or fact sheets. Contact me at 773-496-4020 or rdill@biodiverse.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dill
Education Coordinator
Rock River Stormwater Group

Clean water. Bright future. is a program of the Rock River Stormwater Group.
www.cleanwaterbrightfuture.org

Prevent concrete products from entering our waters

As owners and operators, you have the expertise to identify those prevention opportunities best suited to your operations. You also have the responsibility to make sure all of your team is educated and to create plans with drivers and operators to ensure you are running a fully compliant operation.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulates and permits concrete product operations. It is against Wisconsin State law to improperly dispose of concrete washout. A **WPDES Permit No. WI-0046507-5** covers process wastewater discharges from concrete product operations, including concrete Block and Brick, Concrete Products and ready-Mix concrete. For Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources detailed factsheets and permit applications, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/ww/gpindex/gpinfo.htm>

Facility Management

- Divert your facility's downspouts away from the process area, especially if they outlet onto pavement.
- Store materials under cover whenever possible and away from drainage areas.
- Totally enclose the loading bay during the loading process. Dust tarps and other dust prevention materials are available for pre-existing equipment.

Washing

- Wash trucks in a covered bay that drains to a sanitary sewer.
- Provide equipment necessary to clean all concrete trucks and other vehicles after loading (preferably dry cleaning methods) and before exit from the property to wash off any dust and/or mud deposited on the wheels and/or vehicle body.
- Locate washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, ditches and water bodies.
- Collect wash water and waste from this area for proper reuse or treatment or disposal.
- Wash out mixers and equipment only in designated areas, and never into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams.

Staff Training:

- Train your employees in proper clean up, waste control, and disposal procedures.
- Plan with the concrete truck driver exactly where rinsing can be done. Avoid locations where run-off will get into the street, storm drain or a body of water.
- Washout location is often dictated by the contractor, however, you can familiarize your drivers with acceptable washout locations.
- Post a list of operating procedures for equipment maintenance and waste disposal, including approved facilities/locations for waste disposal.
- Install signs adjacent to each washout facility to encourage proper use.