

## 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 (like saw-cutting, coring, grinding, and grooving) can also result in concrete washout.



This type of wastewater is highly alkaline (pH 12), caustic, and corrosive.

The pH of concrete can essentially be the same as Liquid Drano ® or other household cleaners. 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.

## Regulations

**Wisconsin Regulations:** Sec. 29.601(3)(a) Wis. Stats. regulates concrete washout statewide. This section states, "No person may throw or deposit, or permit to be thrown or deposited, into any waters within the jurisdiction of the state any lime, oil, tar, garbage, refuse, debris, tanbark, ship ballast, stone, sand, except where permitted by s. 30.12(3)(a)1., slabs, decayed wood, sawdust, sawmill refuse, planning mill shavings or waste material of any kind, or any acids or chemicals or waste or refuse arising from the manufacture of any article of commerce, or any other substance deleterious to game or fish life."

**Local Regulations:** The [Insert Community Name] Construction Site Erosion Control Ordinance [Sec. S.07(3)(d)] regulates concrete washout. The use, storage, and disposal of concrete truck washout shall be managed during the construction period to prevent their entrance into storm sewers and waters of the state.

## Contacts for more information

To report an illegal discharge of pollutants into a storm drain contact:

Your local community's storm water department

# Concrete Washout



Best Management Practices to help keep our waterways clean!

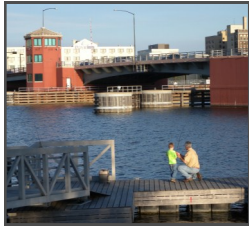
If you would like more information about what you can do to impact water quality in Northeast Wisconsin visit:

[RenewOurWaters.org](http://RenewOurWaters.org)

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium  
P.O. Box 1861  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912  
Phone: 920-858-4246

**Renew  
Our Waters**  
Every choice counts.

## You can help protect Northeast Wisconsin waters!



Northeast Wisconsin residents rely on clean water for recreation, business, health & safety. Area wildlife depend on clean water for habitat and food..

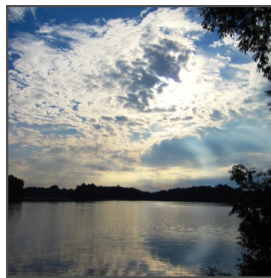
When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots and gutters wash down storm drains and into the nearest body of water.



Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sanitary sewer system. Any pollutant that flows into a storm drain ends up in our local lakes and rivers. Urban runoff pollutants come from many different

sources, such as leaking cars, pet waster, dirt and sediments, and litter.

The good news is that urban runoff pollution is preventable! As Northeast Wisconsin residents and/or business owners, we simply need to work together and change a few habits to benefit our health, our families and our community. Remember every bit of pollution hurts.



## Best Management Tips

To prevent concrete washout from harming the environment use the best management tips in this brochure:

## Training

- Train employees and subcontractors so they do not dump concrete washout on the ground or allow it to enter storm drains, ditches, streets, and waterways.
- A sign should be installed adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to use the property facilities.

## Containment Area

- 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 be at least 10 millimeters and leak free.
- Keep containment areas away from construction traffic to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage and spills.
- Inspect the containment areas daily to insure the sidewalls are intact, leaks are absent, and adequate capacity remains.
- Cover the containment area before rainstorms to prevent overflows.
- Place new plastic in the containment facility each time it is cleaned and complete other needed repairs before using the containment facility again.



## Truck Washout

- When feasible, truck washout should occur at the concrete plant.
- When washout is needed on a construction site, use designated temporary storage facilities large enough to contain all the liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.
- Keep washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, ditches, and water bodies and install signs instructing operators to use the facility.
- Washout facilities must be cleaned, or new facilities constructed and ready for use, once the washout container is 75% full.



## Vehicle Entrance

- Where pavement is absent, construct a stabilized vehicle entrance to the containment area.

## Removal of Hardened Solids

- Hardened solids can be crushed and hauled away for recycling or disposed in accordance with local construction waste management regulations.