CRWC
CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

CONCRETE WASHOUT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns. Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.
Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

WHAT IS CONCRETE WASHOUT?

Concrete washout water is the water that is leftover after cement work is done and the equipment has been cleaned up with water. Equipment that is commonly washed out after cement work includes: the drum from the concrete truck, the chutes and hoppers, wheelbarrows and hand tools. This wash water contains toxic metals and has a pH value near 12, making it very caustic and corrosive.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):

Behaviors and practices used by individuals to prevent or reduce stormwater pollution impacts.

Daniel X. O'Neil

In order to minimize or eliminate the discharge of concrete waste materials into the storm drains, it is important to follow proper procedures and practices.

BEST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. When cleaning equipment, operators must retain all concrete wash water and solids in approved containers with leak proof designs so the wash water does not reach storm drains or soil surfaces that could runoff into local waterways or groundwater.

2. Collect 100% of concrete wash water and solids and recycle them to prevent materials from ending up in a landfill.


Silt Management Supplies, LLC.

Making sure all of the concrete equipment is cleaned out properly prevents the concrete washout from leaking into nearby surfaces. This prevents wash water from entering the waterways which can cause pollution problems in surface waters and the soil.

For more information and guidance on handling concrete washout:

- www.nrmca.org/course/environmental-course/
- www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/concretewashout.pdf

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