

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Concrete Industry



Concrete Industry

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Concrete Industry Problems

Businesses that produce, deliver or work with concrete have the potential to contaminate our creeks and lakes. Uncured concrete has a high pH, which is harmful to water quality. Other potential pollutants include sediment, oil, chemicals and heavy metals.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for the concrete industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.



For More Information

To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding the concrete industry call 311 or visit <http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on Pollution Prevention.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.



Site Good Housekeeping

- It is recommended that process areas at production sites be paved in order to facilitate better cleanup.
- Sweep paved areas regularly to remove accumulated concrete dust.
- Leaky vehicles should be repaired and all products discharged to the ground should be cleaned up promptly.

Materials and Waste Storage

- Leftover concrete should either be reused, such as in concrete block forms, or discharged to a fully contained area for subsequent recycling or disposal.
- When discharging leftover concrete onto the ground, pour the concrete in rows, allow it to dry, break it up and pile it up for later removal.
- All bulk liquid products should be stored in tanks within secondary containment. Storm water released from such areas must be inspected and documented prior to release.



Drum Washout & Equipment Rinsing

- Vehicle washout and equipment rinsing should only be done in areas where the wash water will be fully contained and not able to enter the storm drain system.
- Specially designed or commercially available containment systems are recommended to help ensure that wash water is fully contained at job sites.
- Locate containment areas as far away as possible from surface waters and the storm drain system.

Process Water Recycle Systems

- It is recommended that process water containment and recycle systems be designed to be closed-loop and with ample storage volume to prevent overflows.
- Recycle systems should be carefully inspected and maintained in order to prevent overflows.
- Segregate and collect drainage from process areas using curbs and drains. This will help to minimize how much storm water from non-process areas enters the process water systems.



Employee Training

- Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- Report illegal dumping by calling 311.

Visit stormwater.charmeck.org and click on Pollution Prevention for more information.