



REDUCING STORMWATER POLLUTION FROM CONCRETING OPERATIONS

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Clean stormwater helps keep our creeks, rivers and lakes, beaches and oceans healthy. Keeping our stormwater clean also provides us with new opportunities for stormwater harvesting and reuse. This helps us to protect our precious water reserves.

The concrete industry has a role in preventing stormwater pollution by reducing the amount of waste it sends to the stormwater system.

Why is stormwater pollution a problem?

The stormwater system is the gutters, drains and pipes that collect rain runoff and take it to the nearest waterway.

This water is not treated to remove litter, debris and other pollution before it reaches our waterways.

Your waste will cause major environmental problems if it gets into the stormwater system. Dirty wastewater from your business can have serious effects on plant and animal life in our rivers, creeks and bays.

The stormwater system is not the sewer. Sewage is water from sinks, bathrooms and toilets and goes to a sewage treatment plant. Businesses need a Trade Waste Agreement with the local water authority to discharge waste to a sewer.

What damage does concrete waste do?

Washing excess concrete from the chute of concrete agitator trucks (cement mixers) releases concrete into the stormwater drain system.

This waste can:

- make water so murky that aquatic plants can't get enough sunlight and die
- change the pH (acidity) of water, which can harm or kill plants, fish and other animals
- clog drains and gutters, increasing the risk of flooding when it rains
- put heavy metals into our waterways, risking our health and the health of fish and other aquatic animals
- damage the stormwater system, requiring clean-up and possible replacement of gutters and pipes.

because this is our home





Why is proper stormwater management important to my business?

Stormwater pollution is a major environmental problem

Stormwater pollution is the major threat to Port Phillip Bay and all the things that Melbourne enjoys about the Bay. Don't let your business be part of the problem.

How can my business be 'stormwater safe'?

It's easy to handle, store and dispose of concrete to prevent it polluting the stormwater system, without damaging your business.

1. After finishing a job onsite, wash the content shoot into a drum that is fitted with a lid before leaving the site.
2. Secure the drum onto the main frame of the vehicle, ready for transportation. The drum should be secured with a bracket that is easily accessible to the operator.
3. Once the truck returns to the yard, the operator removes the drum from the bracket and empties the wastewater into the correct treatment facility. In many cases, the wastewater, containing diluted wet cement, can be recycled back into the plant.
4. Replace the drum on the truck, ready for the next job.

Ensure that all staff are thoroughly trained in this procedure.

Benefits of being a stormwater-friendly business

By adopting best-practice guidelines, you will be:

- protecting Victorian waterways from pollution
- an environmental leader
- setting a standard for the rest of your industry
- avoiding costly fines and clean-up fees
- complying with the law.



EPA INFORMATION CENTRE

40 City Road Southbank Victoria 3006 Telephone 03 9695 2722 Facsimile 03 9695 2780

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