

The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

CONCRETE WASHOUT

Prior to the current Construction General Permit being issued, a hearing was held by the Water Board in which approximately 500 contractors and other interested parties attended. One contractor stood up during the Q&A time and stated, "So let me get this straight ... if I am pouring 1,000 linear feet of concrete sidewalk, what is the additional harm to the environment by washing down my chute immediately in front of where we are pouring the wet concrete?" Without hesitating, the Water Board staff member replied, "There may or may not be any additional threat to the environment, but, if we see you doing that, you will get a NOV." According to USEPA, American's used 19 billion tons of concrete last year and this number is steadily on the rise. Concrete washout can have a pH of up to 12 (keep in mind that drain cleaner has a pH of 13.5). Therefore, the State Water Resources Control Board and USEPA have a growing concern for the management and containment of concrete washout. Since concrete washout can contain many chemicals and additives, governing agencies feel it has the potential to affect the water quality of streams, rivers, lakes, and even groundwater if not managed properly. With this crack down on controlling wash water, it is necessary to understand what is expected concerning concrete washout.

What does this mean for the construction industry? The CGP over the years has become more stringent on preventing concrete washout from entering into the water systems and even groundwater. With pressure rising on the construction industry, it is important to be updated on how to properly manage concrete washout in order to avoid NOVs and hefty fines. Fortunately there are good solutions and alternatives to containing concrete washout, let's look at a few of them

Kiddie Pools: Don't laugh, they have their place but are not a cure all. The key to meeting the added regulations and responsibilities of the CGP is containment. In order to collect and retain all the concrete washout liquids and solids, one of the simplest means of containment is to use a "kiddie pool" to store the washout. However, this can only hold a small amount of concrete washout so it could better be used for cleaning hand tools and smaller equipment.



Lined Boxes or Bags: The company [Outpack Washout](#) provides a number of different sized sturdy cardboard boxes with a durable lining that are to be placed on a pallet so they can easily transported and eventually disposed of by taking it to a recycler or landfill.



On-truck Recycling: An alternative way to dealing with washout is to utilize concrete delivery trucks fitted with a containment bucket attached at the end of the chute. It collects the cement washout in the bucket and transfers it back into the mixing drum to be transported back to the ready-mix plant where it is recycled. If this method is used, it must be done carefully so that wash rinse water is not spilled onto the surface.

Washout Bins: These continue to be a favored way to deal with washout, particularly when there is a large quantity of concrete work and when pumper trucks are used.



For more information on options and methods of managing concrete waste, check out the [USEPA's Best Management Practice Factsheet \(EPA 833-F-11-006\)](#). Concrete washout poses a serious threat to water quality if left unchecked and uncontrolled. Containment and recycling will not only help protect water quality but also your project from NOVs.

Legal Watch

The USEPA and Department of Justice have come to a close in their case against CEMEX. It doesn't look so great for this company for the civil settlement came to \$360,000. It doesn't end there, another part of the agreement are compliance standards that will cost CEMEX \$1.8 million. The final part of the settlement was the supplemental environment project which added another \$2.3 million to the company tab. This shows how serious the EPA and other governing parties are when it comes to concrete pollutants. Some companies think that compliance is not necessary and will take the gamble on whether they will get caught. Since the cost of units that properly store washout are relatively inexpensive compared to lawsuits and settlements; it is surprising to see more and more companies still getting hit with NOV's and fines. In the long run, investing in the right equipment and implementing the proper jobsite procedures will avoid lawsuits and the stress of NOV's. Storm water control measures are being monitored with increasing interest from regulatory agencies all across the United States. Take note that the EPA is looking to see BMP's are implemented within facilities and on jobsites. Those who take the time to implement the Best Management Practices will have little trouble maintaining compliance with the industry standards of the Clean Water Act.

Washout FAQs

1. What is an acceptable Washout Containment Unit?

According to the EPA, general standards for a concrete washout unit are that it must be water tight, well-marked, and easily accessed. For washout containment units that use plastic liners it is recommended that they be 10 mm or thicker.

2. Who is held responsible for CGP or CWA Violations?

For concrete washout noncompliance, the permit holder, property owner, contractor, the ready-mix company, and the ready-mix company driver can all be given fines for noncompliance.

3. What are additional areas of concern involving concrete?

Concrete is very high in aluminum which can cause water quality standard exceedances. Many times concrete has dyes and additives that also have byproducts that can result in NOV's and fines.

4. What is the best way to deal with concrete washout?

Unfortunately there is no one-size-fits-all for concrete washout systems. The first step would be to gauge the size of a project and get a device or devices that serve your needs. For larger construction sites, [California Waste Recovery Systems](#) provides containment bins that will withstand heavy loads of washout.

Upcoming Training ...

Got SWPPP? Classes coming to Lodi:

- ✓ CPESC Review and Exam – June 24-26, 2014
- ✓ QSP/QSD Classes – July 22-24, 2014
- ✓ Storm Water Awareness Week – Sept. 22-26, 2014

For more information about these classes, go to www.gotswppp.com.

Need storm water training at your office or project location? Invite one of WGR's experienced QSPs to come and provide training for your crew.

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.PDUWEEK.ORG

A huge success!

PDU
WEEK 2014

A WEEK OF FREE TRAINING
MAY QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNITS
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We had nearly 700 viewers for the five workshops that were broadcasted live on the topic of stabilization. Did you miss the live event? No problem ... they were recorded. You can still get a PDU opportunity, view the programs, and download a certificate. It is all free!

PDUweek.org

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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Free Training Opportunities

Are you looking for storm water training for your crew or staff? Do you have limited training funds? Consider some of the following free options.



Caltrans Storm Water BMP Videos:

22 short videos, including this one on concrete washout.

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/interactive.html



Concrete Washout Training Video:

Excellent video by Tippecanoe County. This would be good to show at a jobsite on a tablet or smart phone for training the crews.

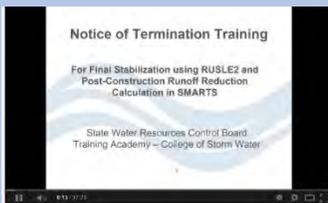
www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgNof25brAE&feature=youtu.be



State Water Board Videos:

Instructors Eric Berntsen, Habitat Restoration Specialist with the Kalispel Tribe (formerly with the Water Board), and Brian Carrier with the Sacramento State Office of Water Programs provide the technical background and step-by-step completion for the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) program and the Post-Construction Water Balance Calculator. (84 minutes)

www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/training.shtml



PDU Week 2014 Videos:

There are nearly 5 hours of programs on the topic of stabilization. See interviews with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, soil stabilization experts, and QSPs.

www.PDUweek.org



Are You Compliant?

Outpak Concrete Washout® unit is designed to be a portable solution for harmful industrial concrete sediment, paint, dry wall mud, stucco, and mortar. With Outpak Concrete Washouts your job site will be organized, eco-friendly, and BMP compliant to avoid costly fines. They are designed for a simple and quick set-up in minutes and can remain for the duration of the project. Outpak Concrete Washout is compatible for both mixer, pump trucks and wheel barrows. Dispose of after evaporation and job completion.



Easy Setup



Pump Truck Washout



Corrugate Washout

Outpak Corrugate Washout is a Universal, "portable" washout. Good for mixer truck, and wheel barrow washout containment. Dispose of after job completion.

6x6 Outpak Washout holds up to 1.3 cubic yards of concrete and waste water.

945-123030	30" x 30" x 14"h Corrugate Washout	0.25 cu yds	6 lbs.	
945-123404	4' x 4' x 14"h Corrugate Washout	0.68 cu yds	10 lbs.	
945-123406	6' x 6' x 12"h Corrugate Pump Washout	1.33 cu yds	16 lbs.	

Long-lasting PVC Washout



PVC Washout

PVC Washouts are designed for larger volume of containment for pump trucks and mixer trucks.

The high UV resistance of the PVC Washout, allows for longer job life and higher tolerance to weather conditions.

965-001430	6' x 8' PVC Washout	2 cu yds.	30 Washouts	38lbs.
965-001440	8' x 10' PVC Washout	3 cu yds.	45 Washouts	50lbs.

Distributed By:



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