

Concrete Work Guidelines

This flyer outlines the proper procedures that should be used to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains and polluting our waterways. Concrete has a high pH, which can negatively impact water quality and aquatic life if discharged into the storm drain system.

Any release that enters waterways or the stormwater system is a violation of Town Code Section 5-32 and is subject to enforcement and fines. Visit

<https://townofcarrboro.org/2563/What-is-an-Illicit-Discharge> for more information on Illicit Discharges.



Concrete mixers, trucks and pumpers must be cleaned after discharging a batch. Shovels and finishing tools must be cleaned at the end of each job. The cleaning process is usually done water.

The wastewater from this "wash out" contains calcium carbonate and other components of concrete that can contaminate surface waters.

Contractors, property owners, and concrete providers are responsible to ensure that the proper measures are taken to keep concrete, concrete wash, and concrete slurry out of the stormwater system and local surface waters.

- **Never wash out over a storm drain inlet or into a drainage ditch.**
- If equipment must be washed out at the job site, designate a "Wash Out Area" that is as far as possible from any surface waters storm drain inlets or drainage ditches. The "Wash Out Area" should also be located in a low area where wash water and stormwater will pool and soak into the ground. "Wash Out Areas" shall be approved in the permitted plans prior to use. Clearly label the "Wash Out Area".
- If no suitable "Wash Out Area" can be located at the job site, then wash out will have to be done into a bucket or container. The container will have to be taken to a suitable place for disposal.
- If there is a small amount of excess wet concrete remaining at the end of a job (less than 1 cubic yard) and it cannot be used elsewhere, discharge it in the wash out area. Larger volumes of excess concrete must be returned to the batch plant or disposed as solid waste.
- Limit the amount of fresh concrete or cement mortar mixed to only what is needed for that job.

**Call the Stormwater Hotline at
919-913-2999
to report spills immediately.**



***We all Live
Downstream***

**TOWN OF CARRBORO
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STORMWATER DIVISION**