



Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application Best Management Practices to Protect Stormwater Quality

Preventing Stormwater Pollution: It's Up to Us!

The City of Greeley oversees and owns the storm drainage system, which is a network of underground pipes and surface conveyance features, designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets to downstream lakes, streams, and rivers. Because the system contains no filters or treatment and is a direct connection to local surface waters, it can carry urban pollution straight to the Cache La Poudre and South Platte Rivers.

Rain, industrial, and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paints, construction debris, yard waste, pet wastes, pesticides, and litter.

Concrete washout is high in pH, contains harmful chemicals, and is concentrated with sediments. This pollution damages the environment and may kill plants and fish. The City of Greeley is required by federal and state law to educate the public and businesses on stormwater concerns. Please join us in our effort to reduce stormwater runoff pollution by following the best management practices outlined in this handout for concrete and mortar applications!

Who should use this brochure?

- Concrete delivery/pumping workers
- Mason and bricklayers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General Contractors
- Home Builders
- Developers



Stormwater Pollution from Fresh Concrete and Mortar Applications

Fresh concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into lakes, streams, and rivers are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment. Disposing of these materials into the storm drains, detention ponds, or other stormwater conveyance features can plug up stormwater infrastructure, cause flooding, and is also prohibited by law. Specifically, City of Greeley Ordinance Sec. 20-563. - Illicit discharges; allowed discharges; nonconforming taps.

Doing the Job Right - General Business Practices

Wash out concrete mixers only in designated wash-out areas, away from storm drains and waterways, where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit, then dispose of the settled, hardened concrete as garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse. Do not use diesel fuel as a lubricant on concrete forms, tools, or trailers.

During Construction:

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a two-hour period.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, NOT down the driveway or into the street or storm drain
- Protect applications of fresh concrete and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- Never bury waste material. Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never dispose of washout in the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, canals or Cache La Poudre or South Platte Rivers.

To Report Illegal Dumping to the Stormwater Drainage System, call 970-473-6389.

Thank you for your efforts in protecting Stormwater Quality!