



Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollutants can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people. Common sources of pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, anti-freeze, paint products concrete washout, and mortar that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and Valley Water to educate local residents and businesses to prevent stormwater pollution. Join us in protecting the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Storm Drain Pollution from Masonry and Paving

Fresh concrete, stucco, and cement-related mortars that wash into the Bay, lakes, streams, or estuaries are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment. Disposing of these materials to the storm drains or creeks causes serious problems, and is prohibited by law.



Never allow spills and leaks to enter storm drains. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit any discharges other than rain into the storm drain.

Who should use this brochure?

- Masons and bricklayers
- Sidewalk construction crews
- Patio construction workers
- Construction inspectors
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers
- Concrete delivery/pumping workers

Doing the Job Right

GENERAL BUSINESS PRACTICES

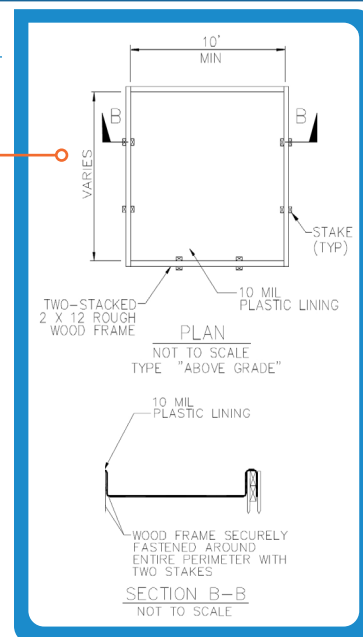
- Wash out concrete equipment/mixers/trucks offsite, or onsite only in designated wash-out containers/areas, where the water will flow into a temporary lined waste pit, and in a manner that will prevent leaching into underlying soils.
- Dispose of settled, hardened concrete as garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping it back into mixers for reuse. **Never dispose of washout into the streets, creeks, storm drains, drainage ditches, or dirt areas.**
- Store dry and wet concrete-related materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or creeks. Store materials off the ground, on pallets. Protect dry materials from the wind.
- Secure bags of cement after they are open. Keep wind-blown cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- Schedule concrete work during dry weather, including time for it to cure before rain.



Doing the Job Right

CONCRETE USE & SAW CUTTING NEAR WATERWAY

- On larger sites, locate washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, open ditches, or bodies of water. Washout areas should be located away from construction traffic or entrance/exit areas to prevent disturbance or tracking.
- Protect storm drain inlets during saw cutting by blocking the inlet using a cover or other BMPs.
- When making saw cuts, use as little water as possible.
- Do not allow saw cutting residue to flow across the pavement and should not be left on the surface of the pavement.
- Pick up residue from saw cutting, coring, and grinding operations using a vacuum device.
- Shovel, absorb, or vacuum saw cut slurry deposits and dispose of all waste properly and as soon as reasonably possible. Do not leave saw cutting residue on pavement surface.
- If saw cut slurry enters a storm drain inlet, clean it up immediately and notify the local municipality.



DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Do not mix more concrete, stucco or cement more than you will use in a two-hour period.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths to contain materials.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drain, or vacuum up. If possible, sweep first.
- Protect applications of fresh concrete, stucco and mortar from rainfall and runoff until the material has dried.
- Do not wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into the street or storm drain. Collect and return sweepings to aggregate base stockpiles or dispose of them properly.
- When breaking up pavement, be sure to pick up all pieces and dispose of properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a recycling facility or concrete plant.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, stucco, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never bury solid or hazardous waste material.

Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Program. Call (800) 207-8222 to learn about proper disposal options and hazardous waste disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with a monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Clean Harbors, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

For spills or materials entering a creek, pond or reservoir call Valley Water's 24/7 Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact your local agency during regular business hours:

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga
(West Valley Communities) (408) 354-4734
Cupertino (408) 777-3354
Los Altos (650) 947-2770
Los Altos Hills (650) 941-7222
Milpitas (408) 586-3365

Mountain View (650) 903-6378
Palo Alto (650) 329-2122
San José (408) 945-3000
Santa Clara (408) 615-3080
Unincorporated Santa Clara County (408) 918-4609
Sunnyvale (408) 730-7260