



## Concrete Washout

- One of the most common illegal discharges from construction sites is washout from concrete installations. Never dispose of concrete washout into the street, storm drain, open ditch or stream.
- Keep washout areas at least 50 feet from storm drains, open ditches, and water bodies.
- Concrete washout stations should be clearly marked on the construction site.
- Cover the washout area before rainstorms to prevent overflows.
- Use sediment controls to capture runoff from exposed aggregate, sawing, or coring.
- Keep washout areas away from construction traffic to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage and spills.
- Hardened solids can be hauled away or used for clean fill, if allowed on your site.

## Stormwater Pollution

For more information, or to report an illegal discharge, contact your local Stormwater Management Office:

County of Boone  
[www.showmeboone.com](http://www.showmeboone.com)  
 E-mail: [stormwater@boonecountymmo.org](mailto:stormwater@boonecountymmo.org)  
 Tel: (573) 886-4330

City of Columbia  
[www.gocolumbiamo.com](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com)  
 E-mail: [pubw@GoColumbiaMo.com](mailto:pubw@GoColumbiaMo.com)  
 Tel: (573) 874-7250

University of Missouri  
[ehs.missouri.edu](http://ehs.missouri.edu)  
 E-mail: [ehs@missouri.edu](mailto:ehs@missouri.edu)  
 Tel: (573) 882-7018

## Solid Waste Disposal

City of Columbia Landfill (573) 474-9145

## To Report Illegal Discharges Non-Emergency

County of Boone	(573) 886-4330
City of Columbia	(573) 445-9427
University of Missouri	D: (573) 882-7108 N & W: (573) 882-7201
Emergency Only	911

# Managing Concrete Washout



*Image courtesy Columbia Ready Mix*

*Help keep concrete and related materials out of the storm drain system.*

Show-Me Stormwater  
Management Program



## What is Concrete Washout?

Concrete washout is formed by washing concrete trucks, pumps, mixers, chutes, and tools. Products like grout and mortar, along with activities like sawing cutting, coring, and grinding is also considered concrete washout.

## What's the Big Deal?

This wastewater is highly alkaline (basic), with a pH of 12, basically the same as Liquid Draino®. Concrete washout can change the pH of surface and groundwater by increasing the toxicity of other substances and reducing water clarity. It can clog fish gills, reducing oxygen intake, and cause death.

The high pH of the concrete wash water leaves a lasting effect on the soil. Future vegetation may be stunted or refuse to grow. It can also damage existing vegetation by affecting soil productivity. In extreme cases, this high pH can stunt or kill existing vegetation.

## Concrete Washout Locations

Concrete washout locations must be designated on site.



## Before You Start a Job

- At small construction sites, obtain permission to wash out equipment in a dirt area so the wash water can soak into the ground.



- Place sediment controls such as berms or temporary vegetation to capture water runoff before it reaches the storm drain.
- Don't order or mix more concrete than you will use.
- For a site one acre or greater, use a designated washout area.



- Haul off hardened concrete, or, if the site allows, use it as clean fill.

## Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.

Storm drains collect and transport runoff from rainfall. These are typically the drains found in streets and parking lots. Storm drain systems do not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers.

Sanitary Sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing such as toilets, sinks, and floor drains and take it to a sewage treatment plant the treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged to the river.



Discharge or disposal of concrete waste into the storm drain system violates federal, state, and local stormwater ordinances. Dischargers may be held liable for cleanup costs and subject to fines.