

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the San Francisco Bay Area, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and the Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this 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, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.



## Storm Drain Pollution from Fresh Concrete and Mortar Applications

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

### Doing the Job Right

#### *General Business Practices*

- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated wash-out areas in your yard, away from storm drains and waterways, where the water will flow into a temporary waste pit in a dirt area. Let water percolate through soil and dispose of settled, hardened concrete as garbage. Whenever possible, recycle washout by pumping back into mixers for reuse.
- Wash out chutes onto dirt areas at site that do not flow to streets or drains.
- Always store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or waterways. Protect dry materials from wind.
- Secure bags of cement after they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- 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.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when the wash water can (1) flow onto a dirt area; (2) drain onto a bermed surface from which it can be pumped and disposed of properly; or (3) be vacuumed from a catchment created by blocking a storm drain inlet. If necessary, divert runoff with temporary berms. Make sure runoff does not reach gutters or storm drains.
- When breaking up pavement, be sure to pick up all the pieces and dispose of properly. Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a landfill.
- Never bury waste material. Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Never dispose of washout into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month (known as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators) can often take advantage of a county-wide small business hazardous waste disposal program. Call your local stormwater program (see numbers listed below,) county health department, or local fire department for more information

## Local Stormwater Quality Management Programs

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program  
951 Turner Court, Hayward, CA 94545  
510-670-5543

Contra Costa Clean Water Program  
255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553-4897  
925-313-2360

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program  
1010 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield, CA 94585  
707-429-8930

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
P. O. Box 4186  
San Rafael, CA 94913  
415-499-6528

San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program  
555 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
650-599-1406

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program  
699 Town & Country Village  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
800-794-2482

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District  
450 Ryder Street, Vallejo, CA 94590  
707-644-8949

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA)  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-622-2326 or 1-888-BAYWISE

## State Agencies

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region (510) 622-2300

Department of Toxic Substances (for questions about hazardous waste, call the Public and Business Liaison Hotline, Regional Duty Officers at (800) 728-6942 or (800) 72TOXIC



## TO LEARN MORE CALL 1-888-BAYWISE

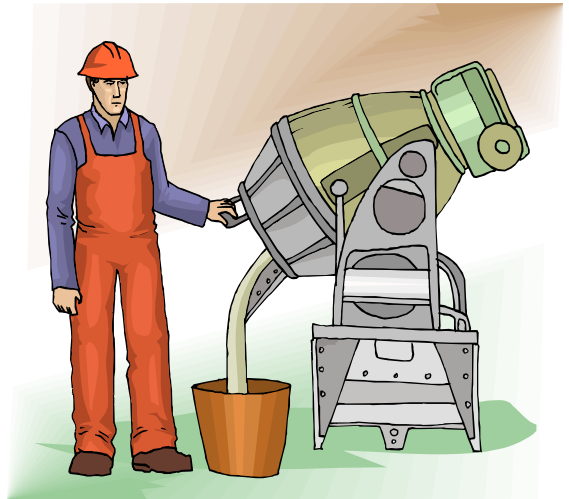
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# Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application

*Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry*



## 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