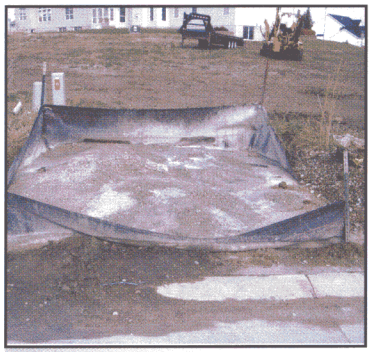
Concrete Washout

- **Washout** of concrete trucks should be performed in **designated areas only**.

- **A sign** should be installed adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facilities.

- Temporary washout areas should have a **temporary pit or bermed area** large enough to contain all liquid and waste concrete materials from washout.



This washout needs to be maintained and is too close to the street.

- **Educate** employees, subcontractors, and suppliers on the concrete waste management techniques required.

- Never wash out wheel barrows, tools, or associated containers near the street. **Discharges of these materials to the storm drain are never allowed.**

- **Inspect** the washout facility weekly for adequate holding capacity.

Wash all concrete waste into designated areas only!

Iowa Stormwater Partnership
Stormwater Education Program

iowastormwater.org

This publication was developed for the members of the Iowa Storm Water Education Program.

Concrete Washout

- One of the most common illegal discharges from construction sites is cleanout from concrete installations.

- It is important to always properly handle concrete residue.

- Concrete wash or rinse water from ready-mix trucks, concrete mixing equipment, or tools may not be discharged into or be allowed to run directly into any water body or storm drain inlet.

- One or more locations for concrete washout should be designated at a construction site. At these locations, discharges from concrete washout will be contained.

Concrete Washout Locations

One or more locations for concrete wash out areas must be designated on site.

Concrete washout materials must be contained where waste concrete can solidify in place and excess water can safely evaporate.

Concrete and the Environment

Concrete and cementitious (cement, grout, stucco, plaster, mortar) washout wastewater is corrosive and caustic. The pH of concrete can be over 12, essentially the same as Liquid Drano® or other household cleaners.

This trail of white residue is evidence of concrete washout flowing to the storm drain and into the stream.

pH Value	Examples
pH = 0	Battery acid
pH = 1	Sulfuric acid
pH = 2	Lemon Juice, Vinegar
pH = 3	Orange juice, Soda
pH = 4	Acid rain
pH = 5	Bananas
	Clean rain
pH = 6	Healthy Lake
	Milk
pH = 7	Pure Water
pH = 8	Sea water, Eggs
pH = 9	Baking soda
pH = 10	Milk of Magnesia
pH = 11	Ammonia
pH = 12	Soapy water
pH = 13	Concrete wash water
	Bleach
pH = 14	Liquid drain cleaner

What is pH?

A low pH value means the substance is acidic. A high pH value means the substance is basic or alkaline.


Mike Isensee Dakota County SWCD

Do not wash out concrete trucks into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams.

What about the Fish?

When concrete wash water is illegally discharged into waterways, it will clog fish gills, reducing their oxygen and causing death. The high pH of concrete washout will also increase the toxicity of other substances and cause further problems for aquatic life. Stream water cloudiness from concrete wash may generate penalties for the polluter.

And the Plants?

The high pH concrete wash water also leaves a lasting effect on the soil. Future vegetation may be stunted or refuse to grow. It can also damage existing vegetation.