
BULLETIN 2000-056-EV

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CONCRETE DELIVERIES AND FINISHING

After concrete trucks have made their deliveries the concrete is usually washed off the trucks, chutes and other pieces of equipment before the concrete hardens. When clean-up water or wastes from concrete finishing activities are directed to streets or areas where the wastes run onto the streets, they enter storm drains and the storm sewer system. Storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where contaminants can be toxic to fish and the environment.

Concrete washings can also create maintenance problems on city streets and in the sewer system by restricting storm water flows in gutters and creating blockages in sewers.

Best Management Practices

To stop contaminants from entering the storm sewer system from concrete deliveries and finishing activities the following are to be practised:

- Concrete in excess of that required on a site should be returned to the concrete batch plant for reuse or recycling.
- Concrete washings from truck chutes must not be discharged or allowed to be discharged to the street or sewers.
- Concrete washings may be directed to gravelly areas on the construction site where the sediments will be filtered out in the soil. Do not direct washings to areas where they will run off or be washed off and enter the storm sewer system or any watercourse.
- Trucks and equipment should be returned to the batch plant for washing.
- When concrete is placed in areas where there are storm drains, protect these drains by plugging them or putting a curb around them.
- Wastes from concrete finishing activities should be directed to areas where they will not enter the storm sewer system or any watercourse.
- Chemicals and the wastes from exposed aggregate must not enter the storm sewer system. Direct the washings from exposed aggregate to a gravelly area where possible.
- If exposed aggregate waste water cannot be directed to gravelly areas on the site, it should be contained, collected and disposed of in an approved manner.

Spills

Spills of concrete or wastewater containing concrete onto streets, lanes or other areas where the spill will reach the storm sewer system must be cleaned up immediately. Preventative measures should be taken to contain and curb potential spills from entering the storm sewer system.

Spills of chemicals used for exposed aggregate must be contained and cleaned up immediately.

Enforcement

Section 3.2(1) of the Sewer and Watercourse Bylaw No. 8093 states that, "No person shall cause or permit contaminated water or wastewater to be discharged to a storm sewer." Violators are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per offence.

For further information contact the City of Vancouver's Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000, 3-1-1 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.



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