

9 Other pollutant controls

Capture cement runoff and other 'wet trades'

Sediment is not the only pollutant generated from building sites. Preparing or finishing new concrete surfaces (i.e. acid washing, exposed aggregate driveways) can clog stormwater infrastructure and pollute our waterways. Allowing pollutants to enter stormwater drains and waterways without effective controls in place is an offence under the law.

Prevent wash-off from concreted surfaces by capturing all residue and wastewater before it enters the roadside gutter or the stormwater system (i.e. pipes and inlets). If this is not possible an alternative product or finish should be used.

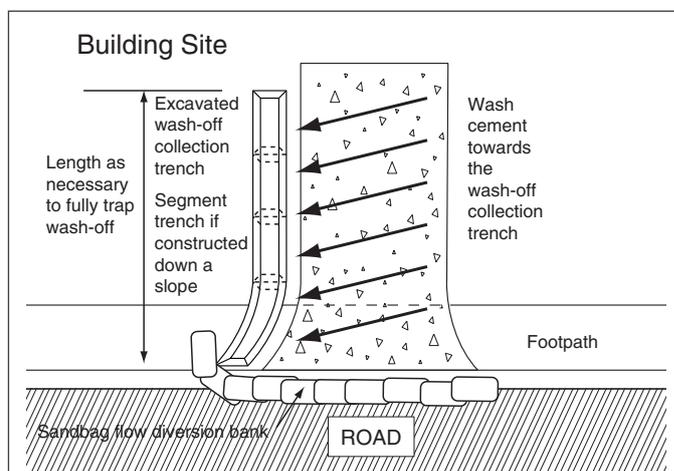
Exposed aggregate driveways are a common example of where both the solid residue (i.e. sand/cement slurry) and the water run-off (which has a very high water pH) can clog stormwater pipes and pollute waterways. Some examples of how you can manage exposed aggregate surfaces to prevent stormwater pollution can be found below and shown in the diagram on the right.

How

- Dig a trench along the length of the driveway.
- Place sandbags around the bottom end of the driveway trench to form a small dam. Ensure the dam is large enough to capture all run-off and ensure there are no gaps between the sandbags.
- Wash cement residue into the collection trench and the dam using the least amount of water necessary.
- Capture all residue on-site, do not let it wash down the roadside gutter or stormwater drains.
- Remove all residue and put it in a suitable location where it can be disposed of. You may need to stop occasionally to remove residue from the trench to prevent it over-topping your controls.

ESC tip

Contain all waste water on-site and appropriately dispose of any residue.



Example of wastewater management on an exposed aggregate driveway.

(Source: Catchments and Creeks Pty Ltd)

Other building site pollutants

Paint, plaster and other waste materials are harmful to our waterways. Prevent them from entering the stormwater system by:

- Washing equipment, tools and paint brushes/rollers only within a contained area that cannot reach the stormwater system.
- Containing run-off from water-cooled saws used to cut bricks, tiles and masonry.
- Whenever possible, do this within the property boundary on a permeable surface and upslope of a sediment barrier.
- Contain all wastewater on site and appropriately dispose of any residue.



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