

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention:

# Concrete and Mortar

Activities using fresh concrete and mortar can contribute to urban runoff pollution. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain create a sediment load which negatively impacts our wetlands and waterways. Sediment is the most common pollutant from construction worksites and can clog the gills of fish, block light transmission and increase water temperature, all of which can harm aquatic life and disrupt the food chain upon which both wildlife and people depend. Sediment also may carry with it other worksite pollutants such as paints, pesticides, cleaning solvents, motor oil, grease and fuel. **Follow these tips to prevent pollution of local wetlands and waterways!**

**Best Management Practices such as handling, storing, cleaning and disposing of materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering our rivers and oceans.**

## General Business Practices

- Train employees and contractors on the pollution prevention practices on this flier.
- Keep materials out of the rain. Store both dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall, runoff and wind.
- Do not store bags or other materials directly on the ground, instead place them in containers or on pallets.

## During Construction

- Minimize waste when ordering materials. Order and mix only the amounts needed to complete the job.
- Use recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Place erosion controls (e.g. berms) down-slope to capture runoff carrying mortar, cement or other waste before it reaches the storm drain.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps.

## Cleaning Up

**Always prevent wash water and other waste from entering driveways, streets, gutters, storm drains or drainage ditches.**

- Wash out concrete mixers and equipment only in designated wash-out areas. Use a wet/dry vacuum to pick up water from concrete cutting operations.
- Recycle cement wash water by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse.
- When breaking up paving (cement or asphalt), be sure to pick up all the pieces. Recycle them at a facility that accepts concrete (see [DavisRecycling.org](http://DavisRecycling.org) for details).
- Recycle construction materials (wood, cleared vegetation, extra concrete, etc.) either separately or at a mixed construction waste facility, see [DavisRecycling.org](http://DavisRecycling.org) for details.
- Never bury waste material.



### Construction and Demolition Recycling

State and local law require most construction and demolition projects to recycle waste materials, including concrete. Learn more at [DavisRecycling.org](http://DavisRecycling.org)

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