THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

Protect your bottom line and clean water:

Dry It, Don't Dump It!

...and other tips for proper waste disposal.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

1404 Goodale Blvd, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212
614-486-9613
www.franklinswcd.org/home-contractors

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

Department of Public Utilities
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
columbus.gov/keepitclean

Concrete Washout Kills Fish

Lime in cement and concrete dissolves easily in water and changes the pH level.

Concrete washout water has a pH level near 12. In comparison, liquid drain cleaner has a pH of 13.5.

Concrete washout water contains toxic metals and sediment that coats stream beds, destroys habitats, and alters soil and water chemistry.

Local rivers have a pH ranging from 6.5 - 9. This is considered safe for fish and other aquatic life. An increase in alkalinity can damage the gills and eyes of fish and other aquatic life, potentially causing death.

Ph Scale

This chart shows the pH level of common household items and cement.

Alkaline — Neutral — Acid

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

What operations can cause pollution?

- Concrete cutting & cooling of saw blades with water.
- Dust residue that is washed away or left to blow in the wind.
- Concrete spills.
- Disposing of unwanted concrete.
- Dampening down of freshly laid concrete.
- Washing equipment, shovels, wheelbarrows, and concrete truck chutes.
- Rinsing concrete for exposed aggregate finishes.

To report a spill or for questions

To report pollution in our rivers and streams or to report anything other than rain entering a curb inlet
The City of Columbus 24 hours: (614) 645-STREAM (7873).
For additional program information, visit:
columbus.gov/keepitclean

To report release of any material that impacts public health or the environment, including chemicals and petroleum products
Ohio EPA Spill Hotline: 1-800-282-9378 or (614) 224-0946

For free and confidential assistance to help Ohio businesses and organizations comply with Ohio's environmental requirements
The Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP): 1-800-329-7518

For waste disposal and recycling questions
Environmental Enterprises, Inc.: 1-800-722-2818, (614) 294-1300, or www.eeienv.com/

Free washout bin

While supplies last - Please pick up a free washout bin at the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Office
(614) 486-9613
Hours: 8:30 - 4:30, M.-Fr.

1404 Goodale Blvd
Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212

Save a Dime, Avoid a Crime

- Never dispose of concrete washout or cutting slurry into the street, storm drains, drainage ditches or streams; it is against the law.
- Train all staff on procedures for, and the importance, of proper waste disposal.
- Use as little water as possible to wash the chute, finishing tools, wheelbarrows, and other equipment and collect water and slurry for proper disposal.
- Provide a marked washout area at the construction site for the driver of the concrete mixer.

Improper Disposal is a Violation

- Violators can be reported by employees, competitors, and residents.
- The City of Columbus can issue fines and prosecute.
- You are liable for the cost of clean-up. This could cost $1,000's.

Keep in mind, violations are a public record

Only Rain down the Storm Drain

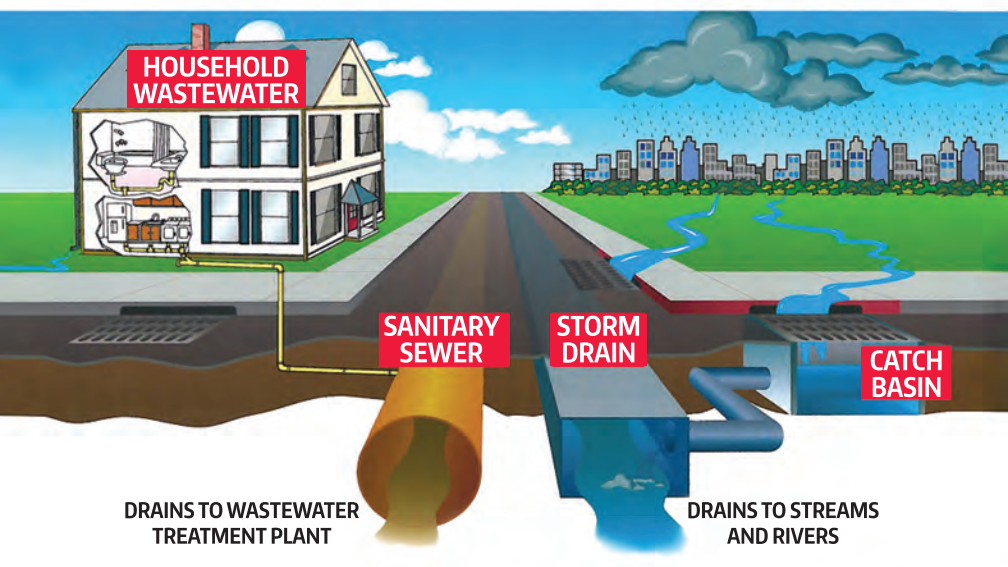
- ✔ Capture washout in a designated, well-marked washout area, bucket or other container.
- ✔ Use sandbags and tarpaulins or diversion booms to direct wastewater to an appropriate washout area and prevent it from entering gutters and storm sewers.
- ✔ Secure bags of cement after they are open. Keep them out of the wind which can carry fine material to storm drains.
- ✔ Divert wastewater into a grassed area where it can soak in. Do not exceed the ground's soakage capacity.
- ✔ Collect wastewater in a washout area or with a wet vacuum so it can be pumped into a tank for re-use or hauled to an approved disposal facility.
- ✔ Allow water to evaporate from washout and dispose of solids in the garbage.

Make it Right with a Tidy Site: Recycle

- ✔ Pass wash water through a system of weirs or filters to remove solids. Then, reuse it to wash down equipment or as an ingredient for making additional concrete.
- ✔ Coarse aggregate materials can either be reused at the construction site or returned to the ready mix plant.
- ✔ Hardened concrete from dried wash water can be crushed and reused as a construction material.
- ✔ Unused concrete can be returned to the ready mix plant.

How does the pollution reach our streams?

Water that flows into the storm sewer system does not get treated at the waste water treatment plant. It flows through a series of pipes and discharges either directly or indirectly into our creeks and tributaries.



Waste from concrete work is toxic because lime dissolved in water can be deadly to fish and other wildlife.

Protect our water: dry it, don't dump it.