

## Concrete Washout Water and Slurry

### Guideline

Issue Date: 02/22/2021

**Applies to:** University of Michigan employees and contractors

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Concrete washout water and slurry can be generated from construction site activities such as the rinsing of truck chutes and other equipment, mobile batch mixers, saw cutting, and grinding. It can also originate from other materials like mortar, plaster, stucco, or grout. The slurry generated from these activities typically has a high pH and can include other constituents that may be harmful to the environment if not properly managed.

### Proper Rinsing Practices

- Perform washout activities in designated, contained areas only.
- Use as little water as necessary.
- Do not add any solvents or other materials to the water. Only clean water should be discharged.
- Do not allow slurry to run into non-designated areas, storm drains or waterways.
- Water and slurry from concrete saw cutting or grinding, which may contain paint or other coatings, needs to be evaluated prior to allowing this material and wastewater to discharge to soils. Please contact EHS-EPPP at 734-647-1143
- Alert site superintendent when containment systems reach 75% capacity.

### Washout Containers

Options include:

- Chute washout bucket attachment (for trucks)
- Lined dumpster (must include minimum 10-mil plastic liner)
- Pits (may be below or above grade, but bottom of pit must be at least 5 ft. above water table if not lined)
- Several prefabricated products are available for purchase depending on site needs (e.g. EnviroSacs, Outpak Washout Boxes, specialized rolloffs, etc.).

***All concrete washout areas should be easily accessible, clearly labeled and placed at least 50 ft. away from down gradient storm drains and waterways.***

### Maintenance

- Once concrete is washed out into designated area and is allowed to harden, it should be broken up and disposed of properly, recycled if possible.
- Inspection of these containment systems should occur regularly. Be aware of forecasted rain events and plan to empty containment systems ahead of time to provide enough storage or cover to prevent overflow.
- Washout containment systems should be emptied once they are 75% full.

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- Washout containment systems are meant to promote evaporation when possible, but if capacity is reached, the stored liquid may need to be collected for proper disposal. Products also exist for solidifying free liquids, allowing for easier handling/disposal.

For more information, contact EHS - EPPP at 734-647-1143 or visit our [EHS Storm Water website](#).