MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BUILDING AND CODES DEPARTMENT
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Concrete Washout Requirements

Section 4.1.6.(1) of the Tennessee General NPDES Permit For Discharges Of Stormwater Associated With Construction Activities (generally referred to as a Construction General Permit or CGP) prohibits the discharge of concrete washout water to the environment. This means that if your development or construction project requires a Construction General Permit, you are required install and properly operate a concrete washout facility. The developer is responsible for ensuring that all concrete waste is contained in a washout.

NOTE: Individual home building sites that are not part of a development and are not required to have a Construction General Permit, are not required to have a concrete washout facility like those that are required for Construction General Permit sites, but you cannot wash out within 50 feet of storm drains, open ditches, or water bodies.

Concrete washouts are used to contain concrete and liquids when the chutes of concrete mixers and hoppers of concrete pumps are rinsed out after use. The washout facilities consolidate solids for easier disposal and prevent runoff of liquid concrete waste.

Concrete wash water is alkaline and is often contaminated by chemical additives like chromium, which can leach into the ground or flow into the storm drain system and contaminate ground and surface water. This contamination causes extreme damage to the environment. Improperly disposal of concrete waste can clog storm drain pipes and cause flooding. Installing concrete washout facilities not only prevents pollution but also is a matter of good housekeeping at your construction site.

Concrete washout facilities cannot be located within 50 feet of storm drains, open ditches, or water bodies. They are to be placed in a location that allows convenient access for concrete trucks, preferably near the area where the concrete is being poured. It is recommended that an appropriate gravel or rock path be installed if the facilities are located on undeveloped property. These areas should be far enough away from other construction traffic to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage and spills. Only one washout is required for any development.

Washouts should be sized to handle solids, wash water, and rainfall (or should be covered during rain events) and must be large enough to prevent overflow. Most estimates state that 7 gallons of wash water are used to wash one truck chute and 50 gallons are used to wash out the hopper of a concrete pump truck. A good size for a concrete washout facility for a large development would be 10 feet long, 15 – 20 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Smaller construction sites can get by with proportionally smaller facilities. For developments, a double plastic liner may be required to prevent contaminant migration. **Do not locate washout facilities within 50 feet of any stream, drainage or storm drain.**

An above-grade washout should be at least ten feet wide by ten feet long and large enough to contain all liquid and solid waste generated in between cleanout periods. The structures can be made from staked straw bales or sandbags, and double lined with heavy gauge plastic sheeting that has no holes or tears. **Do not locate washout facilities within 50 feet of any stream, drainage or storm drain.**

Concrete washouts should be designed to promote evaporation where feasible. If stored liquids have not evaporated and the washout is nearing capacity, dispose of the liquid waste in an approved manner. **Do not**

dispose of the liquids by dumping in or near streams, drainages or storm drains.

Hardened concrete solids can be broken up and discarded. You can use the solids onsite or haul them away for recycling. Crushed concrete makes excellent aggregate for roadbeds and other building applications.

The Montgomery County Stormwater Coordinator can answer any questions about concrete washout facility requirements. Please feel free to call if you have problems or questions.

More information is available at:

EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web Site:
http://www.epa.gov/safewater

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Office of Water Pollution Control:
http://tennessee.gov/environment/wpc/