



The City of San Diego

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Concrete Washout

The sewer system and the storm water conveyance systems (drains, inlets, and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm water conveyance system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Whether you are at home, work, or play there are ways that residents and businesses alike can "Think Blue" and prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways

FACT: Under the City of San Diego's Municipal Code §43.03, *Storm Water Management and Discharge Control*, it is illegal to wash out concrete, slurry, mortar, stucco, plaster and the like, into the storm water conveyance system or any receiving water. The penalties imposed for these violations typically ranged from \$500 - \$1,000 per incidence. For gross negligence and/or repeat offenses, the fines can increase up to \$10,000 per day per violation. ***Pleading ignorance does not protect you from being fined for illegal discharges***

How can these penalties be avoided?

Identify or locate the on-site concrete washout location. Homeowners, this means a washout area must be identified on your property **before** concrete arrives,

An adequate washout area allows tools and equipment used in working the concrete to be cleaned without water or residue leaving your property.

And, remember The 3 Cs:

Control - The best line of defense is to prevent materials and debris from entering the storm drain via procedural methods or "good housekeeping."

Contain - Isolate your work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site.

Capture - Clean up the work area by sweeping or vacuuming up any residue pollutants that have the potential to be discharged. Properly dispose of the residue, and check with the manufacturer for disposal requirements.

The City of San Diego has made water quality a top goal as it impacts every citizen and the environment. You can make a difference by being aware of illegal discharges and incorporating water quality objectives into your daily routine.

Other Fact sheets that may pertain to your activities: *Cleaning Impervious Surfaces (High Pressure Washing); Be A Clean Water Leader: Control, Contain & Capture.*

Think Blue, San Diego. For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: www.thinkbluesd.org

**Think
&
Act
Blue**

