

Kentucky Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Guide

A guide to preventing erosion and controlling sediment from construction activities in Kentucky

Concrete Waste Management

Concrete waste management is a set of policies and procedures that address the handling and disposal of (1) excess fresh concrete mix, including truck and equipment washing, and (2) concrete dust and concrete debris resulting from demolition.

A number of water quality parameters can be affected by introduction of concrete, especially fresh concrete. Concrete contains hexavalent chromium and affects the pH of runoff, causing significant chemical changes in water bodies and harming aquatic life. Suspended solids in the form of both cement and aggregate dust are also generated from both fresh and demolished concrete waste.

Unacceptable Concrete and Wash Water Disposal Practices

- Dumping in unmanaged vacant areas on the job site.
- Illicit dumping away from the job site.
- Dumping into ditches, storm drains, or drainage facilities.
- Dumping wash water from trucks and chutes into storm drains

Required Disposal Practices

- Prevent runoff of wash water and concrete waste into storm drains, ditches, and waterways.
- Limit exposure of freshly placed concrete to exposure to rainfall that results in runoff.
- If possible, dump waste and wash water into areas prepared for new concrete pouring.
- If no future pour site is available, develop other safe concrete disposal areas.
- Provide a washout area with a minimum of 6 cubic feet of containment area volume for every 10 cubic yards of concrete poured.
- Never dump waste concrete illicitly or without the property owner's knowledge and consent.
- Wash water must be handled in a manner that does not result in a violation of groundwater or surface water quality standards.

Education

- Drivers and equipment operators should be instructed on proper disposal and equipment washing practices (see above).

- Supervisors must be made aware of the potential environmental consequences of improperly handled concrete waste.

Demolition Practices

- Monitor weather and wind direction to ensure that concrete dust is not entering drainage structures and surface waters.
- Where appropriate, construct sediment traps or other types of sediment detention devices downstream of demolition activities.



Improper concrete disposal



Acceptable containment structure for concrete waste and truck wash water. Make sure that additional structures are available as existing ones are filled.

References

[EPA General Construction Site Waste Management](#)

[EPA Concrete Washout](#)