



Mortar Silos

Run-off from mortar silos contains suspended solids and has a high pH (is highly alkaline) and therefore has the potential to pollute watercourses and groundwater.

You must ensure that mortar is contained within the working area (concrete base) to prevent the risk of a pollution event occurring.

Planning

If using mortar silos on site you must ensure they are not located:

- within 10m of any drain, watercourse, ditch or drainage channel;
- where spills could enter drains / manhole covers / unmade ground; and
- in areas at risk of flooding.

Furthermore, a low-level physical structure and or drainage capture channel should be formed in the slab to capture water run-off from the silo base. The captured residue / water will require cleaning out regularly and should be treated in the same manner as concrete washout, owing to its high pH.

Residue on or around the base of the silo must be regularly inspected and cleaned to remove any deposits of mortar etc. Water run-off from these deposits has the potential to cause a pollution event and may lead to enforcement action being taken by the Regulator.

Bad practice



Concrete base does not have a barrier or catchment channel to prevent run-off from working area. Area is also poorly maintained with mortar and debris deposits on unmade ground.



Evidence of run-off from working area which later enters the surface water system.

Refer to EMS standard – Pollution Prevention.

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