

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Cement & Concrete Washout



DID YOU KNOW?

- Cement and concrete are probably the most common materials used in construction
- Cement is highly alkaline and is corrosive
- High pH run-off can have a devastating effect on wildlife
- Concrete can contain additives, some of which are harmful if cement or concrete is allowed to enter a watercourse
- Exposure to respirable dust from cement can lead to lung disease

WHY?

Avoid environmental harm: water contaminated with cement is highly alkaline and can be toxic to fish, clog their gills and destroy spawning grounds, as well as being toxic to other plants and animals living on watercourses.

Avoid prosecution: it is illegal to allow cement, unset concrete or washout water containing cement to enter a watercourse or drain.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- ✓ Be aware of all gullies, watercourses and drains before starting work.
- ✓ Store bulk and bagged cement additives at least 10m away from gullies, watercourses and drains.
- ✓ Never wash down wagon chutes over open ground.
- ✓ Only use dedicated concrete washout equipment to ensure that solids and liquids are captured – *ensure drivers are aware of this.*
- ✓ Store materials appropriately, as to avoid unnecessary damage e.g. covered or internally to avoid rain damage.
- ✓ Do not store polluting materials near to surface water drains or watercourses.
- ✓ Report immediately any concrete spillages or signs of uncontrolled concrete washout.



Keeping our team safe



Persimmon
Together, we make a home.

OFFICIAL PARTNER