

# Concrete & Mortar Operations...

## How to Prevent Water & Storm Sewer Pollution

Best Management Practices For:  
Masons & Bricklayers  
Home Builders  
General Contractors  
Developers  
Concrete Providers  
Sidewalk Construction Crews  
Patio Construction Crews

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### **Stormwater Pollution**

#### **What is Stormwater?**

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and other potential pollutants.

#### **What is the Problem?**

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution. Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen can cause the overgrowth of algae resulting in oxygen depletion in waterways. Toxic substances from motor vehicles and careless application of pesticides and fertilizers threaten water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper connections to storm sewer systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil is a pollutant as well. It clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life. Fortunately, stormwater pollution can be prevented or minimized by implementing Best Management Practices which are procedures or activities that reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater.

## **How to Prevent Pollution from Concrete & Mortar Work**

Fresh concrete and mortar that washes into lakes and streams via stormwater are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment.

### **Best Management Practices**

#### **General Practices**

Identify concrete mixer washout areas in your yard, away from storm sewers, ditches and waterways. Allow wash water to flow into a temporary waste pit; dispose/recycle hardened concrete.

Do not use diesel fuel as a lubricant on concrete forms, tools or trailers.

Secure open bags of cement and keep cement powder away from streets, gutters, storm sewers, rainfall and runoff.

Protect both dry and wet materials from rainfall and runoff by storing under cover. Avoid storing materials near storm sewers, ditches and waterways.

### **Best Management Practices**

#### **Operational Practices**

Mix only enough concrete or mortar for a two hour period.

Use tarps or heavy plastic under mixers.

Protect fresh applications from rainfall and runoff until material is dry.

When cleaning, sweep or wash fines onto a dirt area, not a street, gutter or storm sewers.

Never dispose or washout into the street, gutter, storm sewers, ditch or waterways.

Wash chutes onto dirt areas to prevent contaminated water from flowing into streets, gutters, storm sewers or ditches.

Block nearby storm sewers with sandbags if necessary.

Created and distributed as part of our stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. Our goal is to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

This is part of the implementation of a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Stormwater regulations. -2/2009