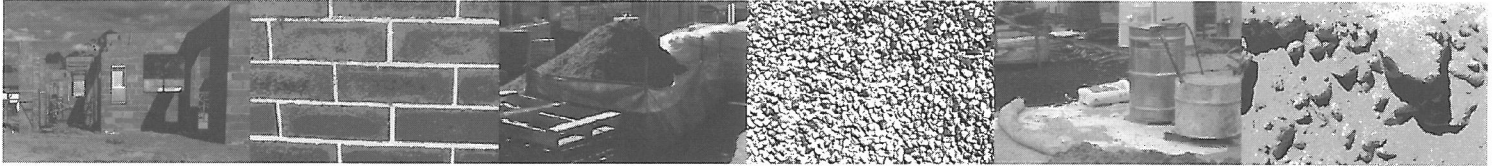


Contained Wash Areas



Building A Better Environment

If you are involved in the building industry, you are required to provide the right circumstances necessary to reduce any environmental impact as a result of the building process.

All building work must be carried out in a way to stop the entry of any pollution into the stormwater system.

The following hints are aimed at the building activities and trades involved on a typical building site.

Establishing and maintaining a designated wash-down area on a building or construction site allows subcontractors to properly wash down equipment without contaminating groundwater or the local stormwater system.

- The wash-down area must be located within appropriate sediment controls. These should be inspected and maintained regularly and be repaired or replaced as necessary.
- Scrape excess concrete off equipment before it is washed.
- Place excess concrete and mortar into a receptacle designated for concrete and masonry and allow to set.
- A high pressure, low volume water spray nozzle conserves water and reduces maintenance of sediment controls.

- Wash-down water is best managed by draining it into a container (eg 200L drum) and allowing the water to stand until the solid particles settle to the bottom. Where possible the water can then be siphoned off and reused and the residue in the bottom can be allowed to dry before being disposed of in a recycling or solid waste bin.
- No wash-down water may be disposed of to the sewerage system.
- As a final option, the wash-down area should drain to a low point or contained area where water is allowed to percolate through geotextile fabric into the soil. The settled and hardened residue on the ground must be allowed to dry and should then be placed in a designated recycling or solid waste bin on site.
- Do not allow equipment wash-down water to flow directly onto driveways or roads and into the stormwater system.

Burying or depositing concrete, plastic or other waste on site is considered littering. The WA Littering Act 1979 states that any person who deposits litter, or causes litter to be deposited, on any land or on or into any waters commits an offence. You must remove all waste from site when you finish the job.

The sediment in wastewater is a pollutant. The Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004 state that sediment must not be discharged into the environment.



WARNING: On the spot FINES apply

For Further Information...

Shire of Capel:
08 9727 0222

Shire of Augusta - Margaret River:
08 9780 5255

Shire of Harvey:
08 9729 0300

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Department of
Environment and Conservation
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