



Stormwater Best Management Practices

Concrete Washout

Help protect our valley's water supply

Concrete washout is generated from washing out ready-mix trucks, drums and pumps; it also includes the water from rinsing off chutes, equipment and concrete truck exteriors. Concrete washout is a slurry containing toxic metals (e.g., chromium, copper, and iron), and it should never be disposed of on the ground or into nearby storm drains. If possible, all concrete waste and washwater should be returned for proper disposal at the concrete batch plant. If this is not possible, operators can install an on-site concrete washout bin. The purpose of a concrete washout bin is to properly store construction waste materials to prevent transport off-site and minimize contact with stormwater. The container must be leak-proof and cannot allow the waste materials to contact the ground. Rainfall may cause overflowed concrete washout containers to overflow and transport the washwater to Lake Mead.



A well-maintained concrete washout area.

Why is this harmful?

In the Las Vegas Valley, water that flows onto streets, driveways, and other paved surfaces is channeled into nearby storm drains and flows untreated to Lake Mead. As water flows across the Valley, it picks up improperly disposed pollutants from construction activities, vehicles and equipment. Liquid concrete washout is a caustic material due to a high pH and is known to harm aquatic species (Fig. 1). Additionally, it can inhibit plant growth, damage soil, and if allowed to infiltrate can alter the soil and plant chemical composition.

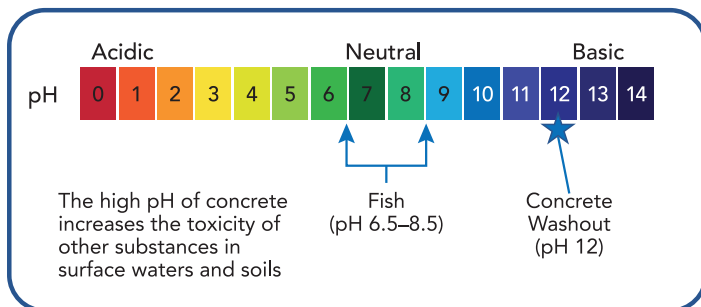


Fig. 1: The pH of common materials plotted along a pH scale. The safe pH ranges for freshwater aquatic life are 6.5 to 8.5 pH.



Litter, pollutants and concrete washout in the streets, enter nearby storm drains and get carried untreated to Lake Mead.



Best Management Practices

- Properly label washout bins
- Do not fill washout bin over 75% capacity
- Collect and retain all the concrete washout in leak-proof containers
- Wash out concrete mixers in washout areas only
- If using an above ground washout, it should be a minimum of 10 ft long x 10 ft wide
- Recycle 100% of the collected washout
- Washout bins should be located a minimum of 50 feet away from drain inlets and storm drains
- Clean up spills immediately



✓ **Good Practices**



✗ **Bad Practices**

Operating and Inspecting Washout Facilities

Concrete washout facilities should be inspected daily and after heavy rains to check for leaks, identify any damage in the plastic lining. When the washout container is filled to over 75% of its capacity, the washwater should be vacuumed off or allowed to evaporate to avoid overflows. When the remaining washout has hardened, it should be removed and recycled. Contact your construction site supervisor if the concrete washout facility is full or if one is not available.

Education and Resources

The Las Vegas Valley stormwater agencies offer complimentary construction training. Please contact (702) 668-8674 for further information.

EPA Concrete Washout Flyer: <https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/concretewashout.pdf>

Thank you for improving the quality of our water

If you would like more information on water quality pollution prevention, contact your jurisdiction's stormwater agency:

Clark County

702-668-8674

e-mail: waterquality@cleanwaterteam.com

website: ClarkCountyNV.gov/water-quality

City of Las Vegas

702-229-7318

e-mail: EOS@lasvegasnevada.gov

website: lasvegasnevada.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Environmental-Oversight-Services

City of North Las Vegas

702-633-1252

e-mail: mclaughlinr@cityofnorthlasvegas.com

website: cityofnorthlasvegas.com/departments/public_works

City of Henderson

website: cityofhenderson.com/public-works/flood-control/public-outreach



 **only rain**
in the **storm drain** 

