

Cities like Durham are required to have federal permits for stormwater drainage systems

These federal permits require the City to have a program to keep stormwater as clean as possible. These permits are called National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES permits. They help protect local water so it can be used for drinking, fishing, and swimming.

Durham was issued its first NPDES permit in 1995. The Water Quality unit of Public Works carries out many parts of the City's stormwater management program.

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BEST PRACTICES FOR THE CONCRETE INDUSTRY

STORMWATER POLLUTION
PREVENTION





Protecting Our Water

Uncured concrete can be harmful if it makes its way into the storm drain system. Concrete washout has a basic pH near 12. In comparison, liquid drain cleaner has a pH of 13.5. It also has heavy metals in it.

Storm drains lead right to our creeks and streams. Concrete waste dumped into storm drains can pollute our streams and drinking water.

Following best management practices for working with concrete can prevent water pollution. Remember- It is against the law in Durham for anything but stormwater to go down the storm drain.

CONCRETE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT WASHING

All equipment (chutes, hoppers, wheelbarrows, hand tools, drum of trucks, etc.) must be washed out to remove the remaining concrete. Always rinse equipment in a designated concrete washout area. Washout areas should be as far away from the storm drain system and surface waters as possible.

Washwater should be fully contained. No washwater should enter the street, storm drain system, or surface waters. If washwater leaves the designated washout area, block storm drains immediately and clean it up.

CONCRETE DISPOSAL AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Collect washwater and dispose of it properly. Washwater from concrete truck chutes, hand mixers, or other equipment can be passed through a system of weirs or filters to remove solids and then be reused.

Do not dispose of washwater in the street, to the storm drain system or sanitary sewer system. If washwater is allowed to evaporate in the washout area, the hardened concrete can be collected and recycled.

Regularly sweep and remove concrete dust from paved areas. Properly maintain equipment to prevent leaks and spills. Use dry cleanup methods only. Never hose down spills or concrete dust.

