



## Stormwater Management for Concrete Cutters

EPA 495/03

### What's the big deal with sediment anyway?

When sediment (e.g. dirt, slurry, sand) enters stormwater drains it ends up in our rivers, creeks, groundwaters and oceans where:

- heavy metals, toxic chemicals, nutrients and other pollutants bind to the sediments and are easily transported through our waterways, spreading the pollution (causing algal blooms, killing fish and causing offensive odours)
- it smothers aquatic life, blocks out the sunlight that they need to live and thus destroys delicate ecosystems
- the chemicals (e.g. metal-based pigments, caustic soda in the mortar) in the slurry may leach out and poison aquatic life.

Furthermore, when sediment enters stormwater drains, it can cause serious maintenance problems with the stormwater infrastructure—another cost to ratepayers.

### What do I have to do to avoid a fine?

To comply with the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* and Section 25 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (and various other Acts), you must prevent your wastewater from entering the stormwater system. You must not leave any sediment in the gutter or drains when you have finished a job.

As from 1 October 2003, the Water Quality Policy prohibits the pollution of the stormwater system and the state's rivers, creeks, ground and marine waters. The Policy has general obligations which every person, business and industry must comply with as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in the issuing of a \$300 fine, Environment Protection Order, and/or prosecution.

Clause 17 (1) of the Water Quality Policy states that a person must not discharge or deposit a pollutant listed in Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the Policy into any waters or onto land where it might enter any waters. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 Part 1 which relate to concrete cutters include brick, bitumen or concrete cutting wastewater and concrete waste. Under Clause 17 (2) of the Policy soil, clay, gravel or sand must not be discharged or deposited into any waters.

For more information on the Water Quality Policy visit the EPA web site at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) or telephone (08) 8204 2004.

## Benefits for you and your business

By addressing the potential stormwater pollution problems concrete cutting creates you:

- reduce your pollution contribution to our waterways
- improve the public image of your industry
- increase your compliance with the legislation
- receive fewer public complaints.

## What solutions are available?

Simply dig a hole, pour the concrete slurry in and allow the water to evaporate or soak in.

*or*

Use a baffle or a boom to stop the slurry and wastewater from entering stormwater drains. This can be a sandbag, a piece of foam or spill equipment.

Once the wastewater is trapped by the boom, vacuum it out with a wet-vac or pump it out and store it in a container. If you pump it into a container, you can dispose of the wastewater in an evaporation or soakage pit, a garden area or to the sewer.

Note: to discharge wastewater to sewer, you must have a trade waste permit from SA Water (telephone 8207 1350).

Without the appropriate equipment you risk a \$300 fine each time you are caught plus the cost of a council's street sweeper to clean up your mess. Your company's name will be recorded on the Environment Protection Authority's database. You also risk giving your company a bad reputation.

## Suppliers of stormwater pollution prevention equipment

Suppliers of spill recovery devices, sloop mops, and wet vacuums are listed in the Yellow Pages. Some companies also hire these devices.

*The information in this document is from a series of fact sheets developed by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Projects. Visit [www.catchments.net/initiatives/initiatives\\_stormwater.shtml](http://www.catchments.net/initiatives/initiatives_stormwater.shtml) for more information on stormwater issues.*

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Legislation**

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: [www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm](http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm)

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Government Information Centre	Telephone:	13 23 24
	Internet:	<a href="http://www.info.sa.gov.au">www.info.sa.gov.au</a>

### **For general information please contact:**

Environment Protection Authority	Telephone:	(08) 8204 2004
GPO Box 2607	Facsimile:	(08) 8204 9393
Adelaide SA 5001	Freecall (country):	1800 623 445
	Internet:	<a href="http://www.epa.sa.gov.au">www.epa.sa.gov.au</a>