



Stormwater Management

for Mobile Concrete Cutters

EPA 549/04—April 2004

Why do I need this information?

This information for owners and operators of mobile concrete cutting services aims to improve your ability to identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your work sites.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires that you undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants such as concrete waste, sediment, and chemical residues.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over outside surfaces into gutters and stormwater drains in the street. Unlike the sewerage system wastewater, this water is not treated and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, groundwaters and oceans. Stormwater should only contain clean rainwater and *no* pollutants.

Benefits for you and your business

By addressing potential stormwater pollution and other environmental problems at your workplace you:

- minimise the risk of environmental fine and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection Authority's codes of practice
- improve your business profile
- make long-term financial savings by reducing costs and improving efficiency
- increase customer satisfaction and patronage
- improve environmental conditions for everyone.

What legislation governs stormwater pollution?

The stormwater system is protected by a number of different laws including the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act), the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* (the Water Quality Policy), the *Local Government Act 1934*, the *Development Act 1993* and the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*.

The Water Quality Policy offers the most specific protection for the state's waters. It prohibits the pollution of the stormwater system and our natural waterways. The Water Quality Policy has general obligations with which every person, business and industry must comply, as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligation may result in a \$300 fine, Environment Protection Order, and/or prosecution.

Clause 17 of the Water Quality Policy states that a person must not discharge or deposit a pollutant listed in schedule 4 of the Policy into any waters or onto land where it might enter any waters. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 that relate to mobile concrete cutting activities include:

- concrete waste
- soil, clay, gravel or sand
- rubbish.

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

Identifying potential pollution problems

Concrete cutting operations produce highly visible solid and liquid wastes that can be easily transported and discharged into the stormwater system.

Solid residues of fine particles of concrete waste and other materials encased in the concrete are released through the cutting process.

Wastewater contains treatment chemicals and waste materials that collect on nearby surfaces; sediment, heavy metals, litter and organic matter are often washed away by concrete cutting wastewater.

Think about where your wastewater run-off is directed. Is the contaminated water draining into the stormwater system? Can you change your work practices to ensure that any pollutants are contained and disposed of away from stormwater entry points?

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

- Surround the cutting zone with portable bunds to contain liquid and solid wastes. Be aware of the location of nearby stormwater drains or sumps and surround them with additional portable bunds where appropriate to prevent these wastes flowing off site.
- As the concrete is cut, use a wet vacuum system to collect the concrete residues and wastewater and pass the solid and liquid wastes through a filtration system on site. An option for smaller jobs is to use an absorbent material or quarry sand to absorb wastewater. Make sure these materials are swept up and disposed of appropriately so they do not enter the stormwater system.
- Minimise the volume of wastewater produced during concrete cutting operations by recycling and reusing the wastewater.
- Collect and store solid residues produced from the cutting process on site in a sealed container. Waste liquid can be directed to an appropriate soakage area or sewer with the permission of SA Water Trade Wastes Section (telephone 8207 1350).
- Have a licensed waste transporter collect all stored liquid and solid waste and take them to a licensed disposal, treatment or storage facility.
- Reduce the water flow to minimise water use when using the concrete cutter.
- Keep and maintain spill response materials on work vehicles for use in the event of a spill or accidental discharge. In the event of a spill, ensure that all waste is swept up and disposed of appropriately.

The information contained 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 for more information on stormwater issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Government Information Centre
Lands Titles Office, 101 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Internet: shop.service.sa.gov.au

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