



PumperDump™

MANAGING CONCRETE WASHOUT



COUNCILS & THE PROBLEMS OF CONCRETE WASTE

Local Council officers are the front-line fighters in the battle against the problems caused by poor concrete washouts on building sites. Council Environment officers are invited to contact PumperDump directly regarding the options for controlling the damage caused by poorly managed concrete washouts.

Of all the materials and activities on construction sites, it is wet concrete that can cause the most damage, and the most dangerous time is at the end of a pour, when pump truck drivers complete the job by washing out their hoses and machinery.

If waste from these washouts falls on the ground, there is a high risk that the slurry will flow into drains and stormwater systems. Within a few hours, the cement solids in the slurry can settle in one place and dry into a solid mass. Blockages in underground stormwater drains lead to flooding and serious damage to public and private property. Clearing obstructions is difficult and expensive.

Councils have two weapons in their on-going battle against bad concrete washouts:

1. PREVENTION

As consent authority, Council planners impose strict conditions on development approvals which require proper professional management of on-site concrete pump washouts. Such conditions give builders leverage against owners or developers who can pressure them to cut corners in pricing.

2. PUNISHMENT

As enforcers, Council rangers identify bad practices and impose appropriately severe penalties on those responsible. There is no requirement to prove that the pollution was deliberate: even accidents can result in prosecution. Unfortunately, even big fines won't stop the damage, and many builders still regard waste and pollution as an inevitable part of the building process: they cope with it, rather than managing it.

Councils may be able to specify the use of the PumperDump end-to-end bin service (where available). This condition (from the NSW concreting industry's best practice) is recommended for all Development Applications which involve the use of concrete pumps:

Where a concrete pump is located on a roadway or footpath where excess material could enter the stormwater system, appropriate bundling to trap spilled material should be installed. Portable concrete collection units (plastic or metal trays or receptacles) should be placed under pumping equipment to collect any spilled material during works.

NSW Government, Environmental Best Management Practice Guideline for Concreting Contractors
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au>

Conditioning Development Approvals gives rangers greater authority in dealing with careless or rogue builders. It also gives builders an argument to use with owners or developers who pressure them to cut corners in pricing. Builders too often find that best practices result in a more efficient work site.

PumperDump also provides a number of other on-site products which contain the waste products which result from washouts. Details are available at our web site.



Emergency action: PumperDump Spill-Fix

Council rangers now also have a further weapon against wet concrete entering stormwater systems: PumperDump Spill-Fix. This is an innovative product that can be kept handy whenever wet concrete is being used. In the event of an accidental spill, the granule are simply sprinkled lightly over the hazardous slurry and within less than a minute, the liquid is turned into a solid mass that can be swept or shoveled into a waste container.

PumperDump recommends that Councils consider providing a container of PumperDump Spill-Fix to all rangers and for each Council vehicle, for use in emergency situations.

THE PROFESSIONAL SOLUTION FOR CONCRETE WASTE MANAGEMENT