



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Materials and excess concrete or mortar can be blown or washed into the storm drains that flow to the ocean. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never throw building materials into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455) or visit www.ocwatersheds.com.

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

The Tips contained in this brochure provide useful information about how you can keep materials and washwater from entering the storm drain system. If you have other suggestions for how water and materials may be contained, please contact your city's stormwater representative or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Tips for Using Concrete and Mortar



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

Tips for Using Concrete and Mortar

Never allow materials or washwater to enter the street or storm drain.

Before the Project

- Schedule projects for dry weather.
- Store materials under cover, with temporary roofs or plastic sheets, to eliminate or reduce the possibility that the materials can be carried from the project site to streets, storm drains or adjacent properties via rainfall, runoff or wind.
- Minimize waste by ordering only the amount of materials needed to complete the job.
- Take measures to block nearby storm drain inlets.

During the Project

- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy drop cloths.
- Do not mix more fresh concrete or cement than is needed for the job.



- When breaking up pavement, pick up all chunks and pieces and recycle them at a local construction and demolition recycling company. (See information to the right)
- When making saw cuts in pavement, protect nearby storm drain inlets during the saw-cutting operation and contain the slurry. Collect the slurry residue from the pavement or gutter and remove from the site.



Clean-Up

- Dispose of small amounts of dry concrete, grout or mortar in the trash.
- Never hose materials from exposed aggregate concrete, asphalt or similar treatments into a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain.
- Wash concrete mixers and equipment in designated washout areas where the water can flow into a containment area or onto dirt. Small amounts of dried material can be disposed of in the trash. Large amounts



should be recycled at a local construction and demolition recycling company. (See information below)

- Recycle cement wash water by pumping it back into cement mixers for reuse.

Spills

- Never hose down pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use an absorbent material such as cat litter to soak up a spill, then sweep and dispose in the trash.
- Clean spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated dry soil in trash.
- Immediately report significant spills to the County's 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline at 714-567-6363 or log onto the County's website at www.ocwatersheds.com and fill out an incident reporting form.

For a list of construction and demolition recycling locations in your area visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Recycle/.

For additional information on how to control, prevent, remove, and reduce pollution refer to the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook, available on-line at www.cabmphandbooks.com.