

# Clean Water

At A Glance

Concrete,  
stucco,  
etc.

## Concrete, plaster, stucco, and sheetrock compound

Concrete, stucco, plaster, and sheetrock compound that enters streams and other waterways is harmful to aquatic life. The lime found in some of these materials easily dissolves in water, just like sugar. This lime is so alkaline (high in pH) that it is deadly to fish and other aquatic organisms that live in our streams. When released to streets and gutters, concrete waste can obstruct storm drain pipes and cause local flooding. It's very important to follow these guidelines in order to prevent materials from entering storm drains, ditches, and streams.

Remember that you are responsible for the actions of contractors and other people assisting with your project. Be sure to discuss the guidelines below with workers to avoid illicit discharges and enforcement actions. It is against City Code 4.372 to dump anything into the storm drainage system.

### Plan Ahead

Avoid mixing or ordering more material than you will use.

Schedule outdoor work for when weather is dry.

Store materials under cover and away from waterways.

Close bags of materials securely once opened.

Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.

Let spilled material harden and then dispose of it in the trash.

### Clean-Up Do's

Keep concrete, plaster, stucco, and sheetrock materials off of driveways and streets; and out of storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams.

Always vacuum up water from concrete cutting to prevent it from entering the stormwater system.

Dispose of waste materials properly to prevent them from leaching into groundwater and contaminating local water sources.

Eugene Sand and Gravel will accept concrete for recycling at no cost. Call 541.683.6400 for more information.

Create a concrete washout. A washout area is a designated area where excess material may be easily removed and disposed of once it hardens. Create a washout area at least 50 feet from storm drains, ditches, or waterways. Clean all tools in this washout area, using a minimal amount of water.

### Report Water Pollution

Help keep our local rivers healthy and report water pollution. Call the water pollution reporting hotline at 541.726.3694 or email [dpw@springfield-or.gov](mailto:dpw@springfield-or.gov)

For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to [springfieldstreams.org](http://springfieldstreams.org) or email our team at [WaterResources@springfield-or.gov](mailto:WaterResources@springfield-or.gov)

