



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1758 22nd St SE ● Salem, OR 97302-1255 ● Phone 503-588-6063 ● Fax 503-588-6394

February 11, 2008

FIELD(contact1)
FIELD(busnam)
FIELD(mailadrs)
FIELD(city) FIELD(state) FIELD(zipcode)

Subject: **CONCRETE PROFESSIONALS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S)**

In the past a similar BMP letter has been sent to concrete professionals, but it has come to our attention that some concrete cutters, concrete haulers and cement finishers continue to allow their concrete wash water and or slurry to enter the City storm sewers. The disposal of these wastes into storm drains, ditches, or onto the ground where it can runoff to storm drains and ditches, is prohibited under Salem Revised Code (SRC) 73.160:

73.160 DISCHARGES TO STORM DRAIN SYSTEM.

(b) No person shall cause pollution of any water of the state or cause any waste to be placed in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the storm drain system and by said storm drains into the waters of the state.

(c) No person shall discharge into the storm drain system any material which may cause pollution problems. (Ord No. 40-82; Ord No. 14-96)

Wastewater from concrete cutting must be kept out of storm drains. This can be done by vacuuming up, drying, and disposing of the residue as a solid waste. Alternatively, absorbent materials may be placed around each storm sewer catch basin in amounts sufficient to absorb all wastewater produced from the job. The used absorbent material must be collected and disposed of, as solid waste, when the job is completed. Bio or bark bags **do not** provide adequate containment for concrete cutting wastewater. The bags are designed to let liquid pass and will not hold back the fines created by concrete cutting.

The only acceptable location for cleaning a cement residue off equipment is on the job site where the cement is being poured. Vacant lots, dead end streets, or other undeveloped areas are considered private property. Unauthorized dumping on private property is prohibited.

Failure to observe this section of the Salem Revised Code will result in further enforcement action which may include citations and/or civil penalties. If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact the Salem Environmental Services Section at 503-588-6063.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Miller
Environmental Services Manager