

MAINTAINING WATER QUALITY AT CONCRETE AND CONCRETE PRODUCTS FACILITIES



Waste concrete must be disposed of so as not to cause pollution. (See [Guide to the Code of Practice from BC Ready-Mixed Association](#))

Process water from a concrete or concrete products facility can only be discharged to:

- The ground if it does not cause ground water pollution. This could be determined by a statistically significant difference in ground water quality as measured at properly constructed monitoring wells located up-gradient and down-gradient from the facility,
- Surface fresh or marine waters if it and any surface runoff from the facility passes through an effluent treatment system (inspected monthly to verify it is in good working order) so that the effluent has: pH 6.5 to 9.0; maximum suspended solids of 75 mg/L or total extractable hydrocarbon of 15 mg/L; and is non-acutely toxic to rainbow trout at 100% concentration during a 96-hour bioassay.

PRACTICAL HINT:

POLLUTION CAN BE CONSIDERED A SITUATION WHERE THE WATER IS LIKELY OR HAS BECOME:

1. DIRTY IN APPEARANCE,
2. HAS A FILM,
3. HAS AN ODOUR, OR
4. NOT DRINKABLE.

OTHER PRACTICAL HINTS:

THE PRESENCE OF OPEN WATER NEAR A SITE SHOULD RESULT IN MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS OF PROCESS OR STORM WATER DRAINAGE

Process and facility runoff must be sampled and analyzed on a minimum monthly basis, with appropriate records developed of the information. Records must be maintained for a minimum five-year period. Failure to maintain these or inspection records could result in an **Administrative Penalty of up to \$10,000, while**

failure to meet any other individual requirements could result an Administrative Penalty of up to \$40,000.