

Protected Concrete, Brick and Tile Cutting



'Do it right on site' is a project to help the construction industry protect the environment and achieve the many benefits that come from doing so.

Protected Concrete, Brick and Tile Cutting

What is it?

This refers to doing these activities in such a way that no waste products enter the stormwater system.

Why is it important?

It is important because concrete, brick and tile dust cause significant damage to our waterways.

Surplus concrete and mortar slurries will block stormwater pipes if washed into Council systems and cause flooding.

Cement also raises the pH of waterways making it more alkaline which is deadly to aquatic animals. It therefore must not be allowed to enter the stormwater system.

Fines may be issued if pollution occurs.

What do I need to do?

Before building commences:

Find a location on the site away from stormwater drains to undertake these activities. This includes mixing of cement and mortar. The area should be large enough to contain all excess water, residues and waste.

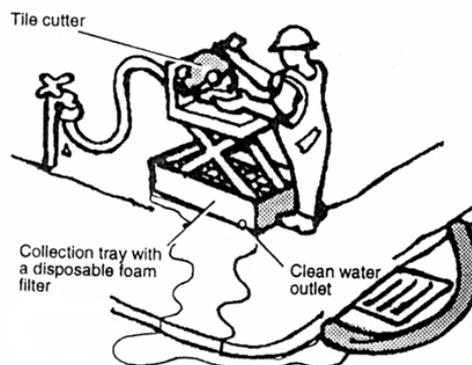
If the nature of the job requires that cutting be done in a location close to the stormwater drain eg: cutting of the footpath, then controls will need to be put in place to ensure that no material enters the stormwater system. Identify site requirements and list them on the Soil and Water Management Plan before building commences. Ensure controls and designated cutting area are available before building commences.

Installing the controls:

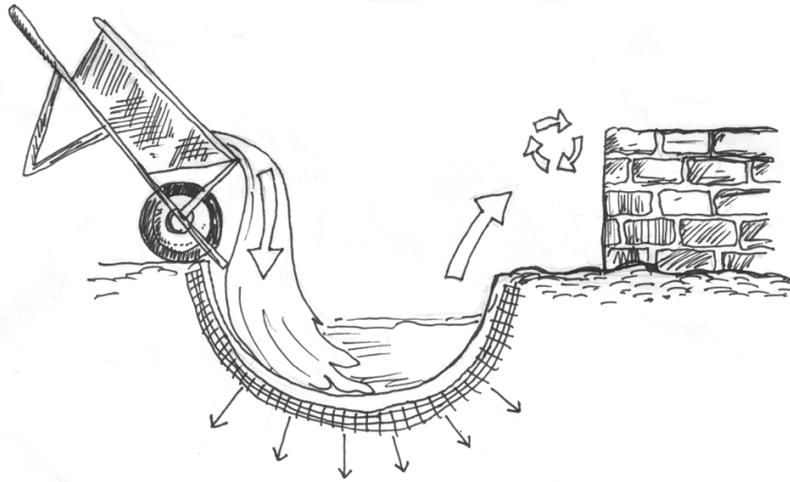
The designated cutting area should be placed away from stormwater drains and have a diversion channel (speed hump) up slope of it and sediment collection devices such as sediment fence or straw bales below it.

If cutting in an area near stormwater drains, use temporary collection devices such as gravel sausages or plastic bunds to direct the waste water onto a land area where it can soak in. If this is not possible and the waste water is likely to flow to the stormwater system then filtering will be required. There are filtration systems available that work in the brick cutting machine, in the gutter and in the side entry / gully pit. The filtered water must have less than 50 mg/L Total Suspended Solids before it can be discharged to the stormwater system, which is water with no cloudiness.

If required, rinse equipment in the designated wash down area on site (see *Fact sheet 9. Protected Wash Areas*)



Safe disposal of waste concrete slurry can be achieved by tipping small amounts into plastic or geofabric lined ditches. This will enable the water to evaporate or soak in to the earth and the solids can then be placed in a skip bin or recycled as clean fill in construction or as road base. Larger amounts should be sent to licensed recyclers or landfill.



Maintenance of the controls:

All filter systems and sediment collection controls will require regular cleaning to maintain effectiveness. Remove the built up sediment and check for holes or other breaks in the controls. Repair and replace them. Built up material can be re-stockpiled, used on site or collected by an Earth Moving Company.

Remember:

Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. The site supervisor is required to make sure that all workers, including sub-contractors are doing the right thing and all workers are required to notify their supervisors and Council if they see pollution occurring.

It is illegal for any substance other than rainwater to enter the stormwater system. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the Council so that they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

Penalties for polluting the stormwater system range from \$750 on the spot fines to \$1 million and seven years in gaol. Both companies and individuals can be fined.

Council Officers and the EPA enforce the environmental legislation and do routine inspections of building sites. They can issue notices to make companies clean up sites, change the way they are managing the sites and if necessary, cease work. They will attempt to work with you but penalties will be issued if a satisfactory environmental outcome is not achieved.

List of fact sheets available from Council:

1. Diversion of Upslope Water
2. Dust Control
3. Early installation of Roof Drainage
4. Excavation Pump Out
- 5. Protected Concrete, Brick and Tile Cutting**
6. Protected Concrete Delivery
7. Protected Service Trenches
8. Protected Stockpiles
9. Protected Wash Areas
10. Protected Waste Management and Chemical Storage
11. Protecting Vegetation
12. Protection of Gutter and Street Stormwater Drains
13. Protection of Site Stormwater Pits
14. Sediment Controls
15. Soil and Water Management Plans
16. Stabilised Site Access

For further information on preventing pollution from building and construction sites contact your local council:

'Do it right on site' is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils – Bankstown, Botany Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Randwick, Rockdale, South Sydney, Sutherland Shire, Waverley and Woollahra.

THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



Southern Sydney Regional
Organisation of Councils