

PA DEP - Concrete Washout Guidelines

CONCRETE WASHOUT - For any project on which concrete will be poured or otherwise formed on site, a suitable washout facility must be provided for the cleaning of chutes, mixers, and hoppers of the delivery vehicles unless such a facility will be used at the source of the concrete. Under no circumstances may wash water from these vehicles be allowed to enter any surface waters. Make sure that proper signage is provided to drivers so that they are aware of the presence of washout facilities.

Washout facilities should not be placed within 50 feet of storm drains, open ditches or surface waters. They should be in a convenient location for the trucks, preferably near the place where the concrete is being poured, but far enough from other vehicular traffic to minimize the potential for accidental damage or spills. Wherever possible, they should be located on slopes not exceeding a 2% grade. Additional information on washouts may be obtained from EPA's stormwater website at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=117&minmeasure=4>.

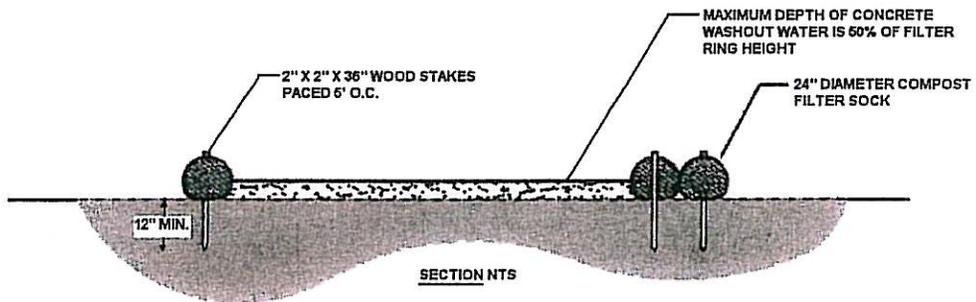
Compost Sock Washout

Wherever compost sock washouts are used, a suitable impervious geomembrane should be placed at the location of the washout. Compost socks should be staked in the manner recommended by the manufacturer around perimeter of the geomembrane so as to form a ring with the ends of the sock located at the upslope corner (Figure 3.18). Care should be taken to ensure continuous contact of the sock with the geomembrane at all locations. Where necessary, socks may be stacked and staked so as to form a triangular cross-section.

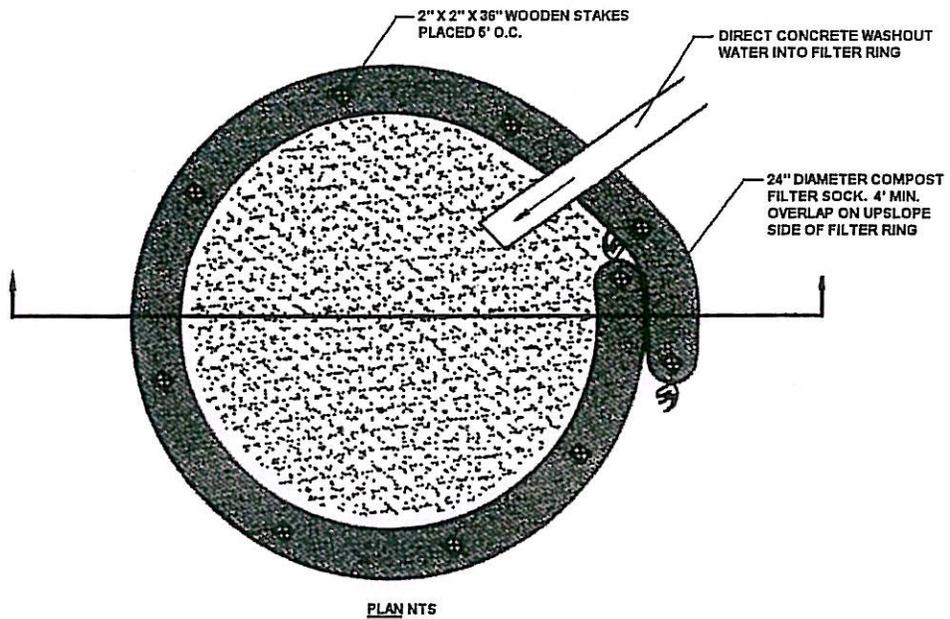


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FIGURE 3.18
Typical Compost Sock Washout Installation



- NOTES:
 1. INSTALL ON FLAT GRADE FOR OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE
 2. 18" DIAMETER FILTER SOCK MAY BE STACKED ONTO
 DOUBLE 24" DIAMETER SOCKS IN PYRAMIDAL
 CONFIGURATION FOR ADDED HEIGHT.



A suitable impervious geomembrane shall be placed at the location of the washout prior to installing the socks.
 Adapted from Filtrexx

Prefabricated Washout Containers

Care should be taken to ensure that the containers are intended by the manufacturer for use as concrete washout BMPs, that they are watertight, and appropriately sized. Accumulated materials must be properly disposed of (preferably recycled) when they reach the cleanout level.



All World Equipment

Self-installed Washouts

These types of washouts should be excavated below grade to prevent runoff of the wash water and minimize the potential for breaching. They should be sized to handle solids, wash water, and rainfall. A good rule of thumb is that 7 gallons of wash water are required to wash one truck chute and 50 gallons for the hopper of a concrete pump truck.

For larger sites, a below-grade washout should be a minimum of 10 feet wide and provide at least 12 inches of freeboard above the liquid and solid waste anticipated between cleanout intervals. The pit should be lined with plastic sheeting of at least 10-mil thickness (with no holes or tears) to prevent leaching of liquids into the ground.



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Washwater Recycling Systems

Washwater recycling systems have also been developed which separate the solids from the washwater, capturing both in impermeable bags and allowing them to be recycled. These systems may be used in lieu of washouts if manufacturers' specifications are followed. Care must be taken to prevent the filtered water from entering any surface waters.

Sediment Basins and Sediment Traps

Sediment basins and sediment traps may not be used as concrete washout devices, since they discharge directly to surface waters. This discharge would have an adverse effect upon the receiving water. In addition, continued use of a basin or trap as a washout facility would significantly reduce the storage capacity of the basin or trap.

Maintenance

All concrete washout facilities should be inspected daily. Damaged or leaking washouts should be deactivated and repaired or replaced immediately.

Accumulated materials should be removed when they reach 75% capacity.

Plastic liners should be replaced with each cleaning of the washout facility.