

LIVING NEAR A CONCRETE PLANT

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER

Concrete batch plants play an important role in our daily lives. They provide the concrete that's used to build our roads, hospitals, schools and our homes, building a stronger Australia.

To ensure our infrastructure remains affordable, it's important that the concrete is made close to where it is used as it generally only lasts 90 minutes before it starts to harden. That's why you find the concrete batch plants in and around the communities that use their product, supporting local jobs and reducing costs for local council projects.

The following information will outline how concrete batch plants can minimise their impact on the look of the neighbourhood and what the plant managers and government regulators do to minimise any effect on those living or working nearby.

WHAT IS A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT?

Cement, sand and gravel are transported by truck to the concrete batch plant where they are stored separately in large bins or silos. These ingredients are then accurately measured and poured into waiting agitator trucks. Water is added and the concrete mixed as the agitator barrel is rotated, ready for testing and delivery direct to the construction site.

WHY IS A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT SO TALL?

Generally the tallest part of a concrete batch plant is the silo that stores the cement. The cement needs to be stored dry and in a container with capacity to store the quantity of material required to meet the market demand. Storing the cement in a vertical silo also allows gravity to help the production of concrete without 'hang up' or blockage of cement in the mixing process.

HOW IS THE LOOK OF THE CONCRETE BATCH PLANT REGULATED?

Concrete batch plants have to obtain planning approval from the local council before they are built. As part of this process, the neighbourhood look and the proposed development are carefully compared to the requirements set out in the local planning scheme by the planning officers and local Councillors.

Making sure the concrete batch plant fits into the local landscape is part of this planning assessment.

CAN CONCRETE BATCH PLANTS LOOK IN PLACE WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?

To help the concrete batch plants align with the look of the neighbourhood, a range of building works can be used that may include:

- neutrally coloured silos and buildings
- screening the perimeter of the site with earthen embankments, tall trees and/or visually appealing fencing. Such fencing may be decorated with community street art and may also help to reduce the impact of noise and dust on neighbours
- appropriately placed flood lights that limit light overspill into neighbouring areas.

IS THERE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO IF I HAVE FURTHER CONCERNS?

Contact your local concrete batch plant manager to raise any concerns you may have and at the same time, allow them to explain the safe and proper operation of the site.



Visit www.cca.com.au to find out more.