

LIVING NEAR A CONCRETE PLANT

NOISE AND DUST

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.

Concrete batch plants operate to strict conditions and are committed

to minimising the impact of their operations on local communities and environments. If you live near a concrete batch plant you may notice occasional noise and dust coming from the plant.

The following information will help to explain why this occurs and what the plant operators and government regulators do to minimise any impact on those living or working nearby.

WHAT IS A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT?

Cement, sand and gravel is transported by truck to the concrete batch plant where they are stored in storage 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.

WHERE DOES NOISE AND DUST COME FROM?

Noise at a plant can be generated from activities such as:

- delivery of cement, sand and gravel
- handling, loading and mixing of concrete
- truck movements
- reversing beepers.

Dust at a plant can come from:

- the delivery, storage and transfer of cement, sand and gravel.
- truck movements.

HOW IS NOISE AND DUST REGULATED?

Offsite emissions naturally associated with concrete batch plants such as noise and dust may result in impacts on the surrounding community and natural environment if they are not correctly managed.

Most modern concrete batching plants operate according to Environment Management Systems that detail how the site operates in an environmentally responsible manner. Control measures for noise and dust can be included in such

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.

plans and are regulated by local councils or environmental regulators such as a state's EPA.

HOW DO CONCRETE BATCH PLANTS MANAGE NOISE AND DUST?

Concrete batch plant operators undertake a number of measures to minimise the noise and dust that comes from their site so that the local neighbourhood will not be affected by the plant.

These emissions may be controlled by implementing a series of industry best practice measures such as:

- enclosing all noise and dust generating activities in properly designed buildings or barriers
- covering truckloads of sand and gravel during transport
- loading the cement silos via an enclosed, pneumatic system
- using low intrusion or broadband reversing alarms
- sealing and maintaining damp internal roadways
- regularly water sand and gravel stockpiles
- screening the boundary of the site with a fence and vegetation
- maintaining dust filters and extractors.

The effectiveness of these controls can be shown by monitoring the noise and dust levels of the site according to an approved environment management plan.



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