

# LIVING NEAR A CONCRETE PLANT

## WATER MANAGEMENT

**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 be interested to understand how water is managed on site to deliver an environmentally responsible operation.

The following information will provide more information about how onsite water management and what the plant managers and government regulators do to minimise any impact on the environment and 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.

### 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.

## HOW IS WATER USED AT A CONCRETE BATCH PLANT?

Concrete batch plants use water in several ways:

- to mix with the cement, sand and the gravel to make the concrete
- to control dust on site
- to wash out the agitator barrel
- general cleaning and truck washing.

Generally, the site aims to minimise mains water use with increasing volumes recycled through the plant and sourced from onsite harvested rain water.

## HOW IS WATER REGULATED?

Issues naturally associated with concrete batch plants such as water use and offsite discharge may result in impacts on the surrounding community and natural environment if they are not correctly managed.

Most modern concrete batch plants operate according to Environment Management Systems that detail how the site operates in an environmentally responsible manner. Aspects such as water use and minimising offsite disposal can be included in such plans and are regulated by local councils or environmental regulators such as a state's EPA on a performance basis.

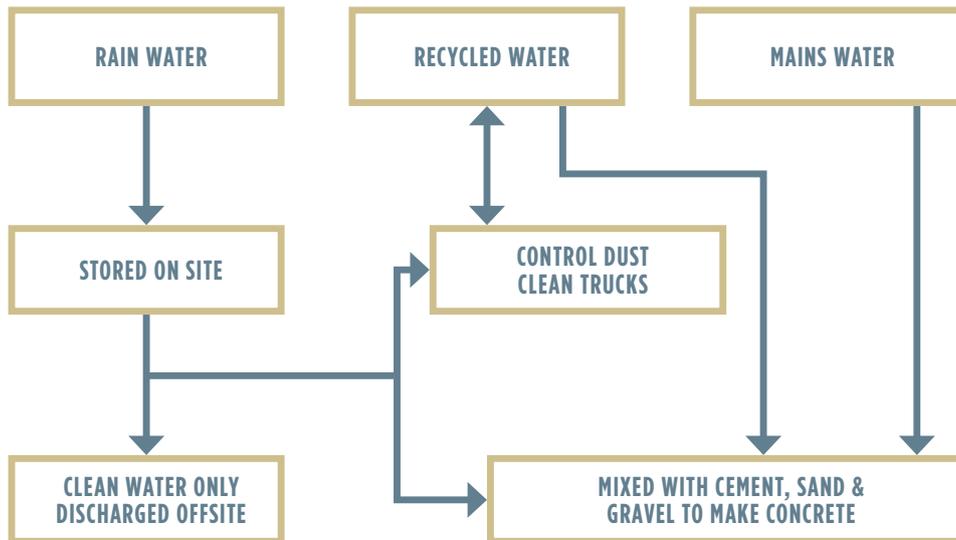
## HOW DO CONCRETE BATCH PLANTS MANAGE WATER?

Concrete batch plant managers have a responsibility to effectively manage the use of water, harvest rain water where practicable, minimise the use of mains water, maximise the use of recycled water and to ensure any polluted water is properly treated. To achieve this they may implement strategies that include:

- separating rain water that has been in contact with concrete products, sand and dirt from clean rain water
- storing the separated rain water before reuse or offsite discharge
- reusing captured water on site for such things as concrete batching, cleaning trucks or controlling dust
- developing a site environment management plan that describes the correct management of all water on the site
- identifying and preventing problems before they occur through a regular, documented water system inspection and maintenance program.

The effectiveness of these controls can be shown by monitoring offsite discharges and measuring water use against an approved environment management plan and then reporting the results publicly.

## TYPICAL CONCRETE BATCH PLANT WATER MANAGEMENT



**CEMENT CONCRETE  
& AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA**