



# Stormwater Pollutant Factsheet

## pH

The pH of water measures its acidity or alkalinity. Waterways are healthy when they fall within a middle range of pH (7). If water becomes too acidic (low) or too alkaline (high), aquatic plants and animals may have difficulty surviving.

### *Potential Sources of High or Low pH Runoff*

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- ◆ Storing food waste or other waste material outdoors
- ◆ Cutting, pouring or disposing of concrete
- ◆ Leaking or open dumpsters
- ◆ Bulk materials transport, handling, and storage
- ◆ Fertilizer application and soil amendment
- ◆ Building, vehicle, or concrete surface washing
- ◆ Construction or other property improvements
- ◆ Mobile vehicle or equipment wash stations, particularly if they use chrome acid wash

### *Best Management Practices*

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- ◆ Properly contain concrete washout water from new concrete installation. Infiltrate onsite, avoiding impervious surfaces, tree roots and storm drains.
- ◆ Collect concrete slurry when cutting concrete. Do not discharge to the stormwater system. Dewater and dispose of as solid waste.
- ◆ If fertilizers or soil amendments are required, closely follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper application and avoid allowing this material into the storm system.
- ◆ Frequently sweep paved surfaces.
- ◆ Maintain an adequately sized dumpster and use a lid to cover it. Keep the area

surrounding the dumpster tidy. Check for leaks periodically and make sure it is watertight.

- ◆ Avoid using brighteners such as chrome acid wash.
- ◆ Follow good housekeeping practices including debris control.

### *Additional Resources*

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[Cleaning with Steam: Port of Seattle demonstration](#), Washington Stormwater Center

[Concrete Washout Guide](#), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

[Industrial Stormwater Best Management Practices](#), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality