

TOOLBOX TALK

14. CEMENT & WET CONCRETE

What?



- Concrete is a mixture of paste and aggregates (sand & rock). The paste, composed of cement and water, coats the surface of the fine (sand) and coarse aggregates (rocks) and binds them together into a rock-like mass known as concrete.
- Postcrete is a ready-to-use blend of selected sand, cement and additives formulated for fixing wooden, concrete and metal posts.

Why?

- Cement and wet concrete are highly alkaline and very corrosive.
- Water contaminated with cement can be toxic to fish, plants and animals living in watercourses. Cement particles entering a watercourse can clog fishes' gills and destroy their spawning grounds.
- It is illegal to allow cement, unset concrete or washout water containing cement to enter a watercourse or drain.
- Cement based products like postcrete can cause serious skin problems such as dermatitis and burns.

Do 🗸

- Wear waterproof gloves suitable for use with high pH (alkaline) substances
- Wear eye protection when mixing
- Wear suitable footwear, such as wellington boots
- Wash any cement off the skin as soon as possible
- Avoid exposure where possible by using premixed concrete / mortar
- Protect nearby drains against washout water running into them

Don't X

- Don't hose down spills of concrete or cement into watercourses, gullies and drains
- Don't wash off any tools or equipment in watercourses



Document Name	TBT Cement & Wet Concrete	Document No.	OC/HS/TBT 14
Document Owner	David Shaftoe	Date of Issue	07.06.20
Related TBTs	Boardwalks; Eye Protection; Interpretation Boards; Manual Handling; Spades & Shovels; Wheelbarrows	Version No.	1