WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Assigning a designated cutting and/or wash area is essential to ensure contaminated water does not enter the stormwater system.

Dust from bricks, tiles and soil causes significant environmental issues in our waterways. Concrete and mortar can block stormwater drains and gutters, and cement can raise the pH of waterways, having a huge impact on aquatic animals and plants. Acrylic and oil based paints, even in small amounts, also have significant negative impacts.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
It is the responsibility of the developer/builder to ensure that measures are in place to prevent any waste from entering the stormwater system.

All workers on site are responsible for any waste they generate.

MAINTENANCE
- The designated wash area and its sediment controls will need regular maintenance to ensure they work effectively.
- Any solids collected from this area must be disposed of to landfill.
- Remove the built up sediment and check for holes or other breaks in the controls. Repair and replace them as necessary.

Designated cutting and/or wash area
- Find a location away from any drains when cutting bricks, concrete or tiles, mixing cement or mortar, or washing equipment.
- Ensure the area is large enough to contain all excess water, residues and waste.

Put sediment controls down slope
- Sediment fences and straw bale filters should be placed down slope to assist in filtering the wastewater.

Note: sediment fences will not stop chemicals.

Get rid of concrete slurry on site
- Ensure concrete waste washed from trucks and mixer units is contained and does not leave the site or enter the stormwater system.
- Collect wash water from concrete mixers in a wheelbarrow and get rid of it in your wash area.
- You can safely get rid of concrete slurry by tipping small amounts in a ditch lined with plastic or geotextile liners. When the water evaporates or soaks into the surface the solids can then be recycled in construction, or used as road base, or disposed of to landfill.
Clean equipment off before washing

- Brush dirt and mud off equipment before you wash it.
- Spin rollers and brushes to remove paint before you wash them.
- You will then need less water to clean this equipment.

Clean painting tools carefully

- Water based paints can be washed in small amounts of water over newspaper to collect residue. Paper can then be placed in a solid waste bin.
- There are also products available that treat water-based paint waste allowing for easier disposal. These include paint hardener and water/paint residue separator.
- Oil based paints can be washed in a series of solvent baths.
- Solvent can be reused several times and must be stored in labelled, sealed containers.
- You must dispose of waste solvent through a hazardous waste contractor. Do not place in a normal bin or on the ground.

Hazardous substances and other waste

- Dispose of any liquid waste (fuel, wet paint, solvents etc) through a hazardous waste contractor.
- Follow the waste minimization hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose appropriately.
- Store all possible pollutant materials (e.g. chemicals and fuel) well clear of any poorly drained areas, flood prone areas, stream banks, channels and stormwater drainage areas.
- Pollutant materials to be stored in a designated area, under cover where possible.
- Burning of waste materials on the site, such as plastics, chemicals or wood that is painted, chemically treated or contaminated with chemicals is illegal.

REMEMBER: Under the Environment Protection Act 1997 it is an offence to allow waste (including soil) to enter the stormwater system from your building site. Penalties can range from $100 on the spot fines to court fines of up to $50,000, six months in jail and a criminal record.