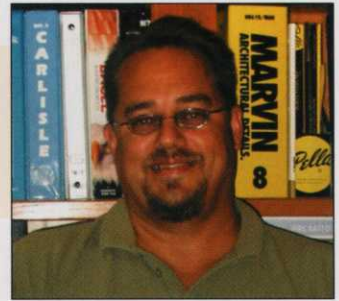


Up-to-Code: *Run-off and Rinse-Down Risk*

By DAVID HARCHANKO, Truman Howell Architects & Associates, Inc.



As I was out on a recent job-site visit I couldn't help but notice the extensive silt-fencing that we were required to install and maintain to control rainwater and natural sediment. It reminded me of the complex systems available to treat and reclaim the golf course wash-down water.

The trend to add more control and requirements to your operation is hard to avoid. The methods for treatment can range from simple separation of the solids all the up to a self-contained biological wastewater treatment and recycling system. Finding the best one for your operation depends on your budget and your local governmental agencies.

The benefits of collecting and recycling your rinse-down waste are well documented. Finding a solution that combines the most benefits within the allowable budget and site constraints usually requires some effort. While there are

numerous options available, some considerations are basic to any solution that you might choose.

Locating the wash area on your site is a good place to start. Make sure that the location is conveniently located and large enough to accommodate your needs. Consider water supply and drainage at the wash pad location.

A new concrete slab is almost surely to be required for any new solution. The wash area must be large enough to allow for efficient rinsing of your equipment. The concrete slab will need to be thicker and stronger than standard slabs to control cracks (leaks) and accommodate the required drainage slopes. Separating solids is one of the most basic steps in any system and the pad drainage system will likely include a sump area or a trough to serve as a collection point.

After the solids are separated, the

major issue is

where to send the liquid. This is where the issue gets much more complex. Depending on your specific location, you may be able to simply discharge into ponds or a storm system. More aggressive treatment is typically handled with special equipment.

A good solution for your wash-down area should also include design accommodations for future expansion or refit for new E.P.A. requirements. Careful planning will even allow a new system to be phased in over a period of time, potentially spreading out the cost impact. Advancements in technology and market competition will surely deliver different options and solutions in the future and flexibility will surely be an advantage.

(Editor's Note: David Harchanko may be reached at 952-401-7889.)



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