

Chute wash capture



Innovative Concrete Solutions, LLC launched in late-2010 with a product that can reduce mixer truck drivers' post-pour time on jobsites; enable compliance with increasingly tighter federal or state environmental regulations covering wash water handling; and, demonstrate to customers a service warranting prospective environmental surcharges.

Operating free of pumps, hoses, and ladder-perched drivers, the Chute Wash Recovery system captures water in a 25-gal, steel plate vessel mounted at the mixer truck's rear cross member. Upon pour completion, the driver pivots the main mixer chute to a separate chute segment engaged on the vessel frame, briefly hosing down fixed and detachable segments. At the ready mixed plant, the Chute Wash Recovery is emptied into a concrete reclaimer or settling pond.

Innovative Concrete Solutions notes that chute cleaning—once a producer-driven task—is quickly becoming a regulated practice, potentially subject to Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System guidelines. Pilot Chute Wash Recovery users have included independent operators in states with some of the strictest wash or process water management rules: Las Animas Concrete in Santa Cruz, Calif., and River's Edge Concrete in Belle Plaine, Minn.

More recently, the system has been tested at Croell Redi-Mix in Iowa and by Aggregate Industries in three regions, and CalPortland Co. in central California. Spearheading the equipment rollout is Innovative Concrete Sales & Marketing Manager Brad Burke, whose tenure in ready mixed has included tours of duty with Chicago-based Prairie Material Sales and Midwest region or territory positions with Fibermesh and National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

Innovative Concrete Solutions
 Apple Valley, Minn., 952/388-1772
www.chutewash.com;
bradleyburke@gmail.com

Chute Wash Recovery units will be demonstrated in Mack Trucks' World of Concrete Booth C5469 and in the Mack and McNeilus-Oshkosh ConExpo-Con/Agg Booths 9011 and 9111