



Concrete solution

Bin helps recycle construction waste

By **Joe Goldeen**

Record Staff Writer

Published Thursday, January 20, 2005



ELK GROVE -- Back in 2002, Mark Jenkins had a simple idea.

As the owner of Elk Grove Waste Management, he knew all about steel trash bins and Dumpsters. He owned the trucks and infrastructure to handle large amounts of waste, he kept up with environmental laws and he had a penchant for recycling. He also had a working background in the concrete industry.

With all that going for him, it was just a few months before the prototype of his first concrete washout bin was produced at a steel-manufacturing shop in Galt.

Since then, the seemingly innocuous product has taken off nationally, gaining the respect of environmental regulators and the praise of concrete-industry insiders who know the days of dumping their waste and contaminated washwater anywhere -- and potentially polluting waterways, lakes, bays and groundwater -- are over.

Jenkins and his partners, Kevin Mickelson and Jim Basinger, created Concrete Washout Systems Inc., based in Wilton in southeastern Sacramento County.

They've established a distribution system, creating partnerships with companies around the nation, and they are in the process of patenting their product.

"It's a really expensive ordeal -- around \$50,000. And then we'll be working on an international patent," Jenkins said.

That's important, because this week he could be signing up his first partner in the United Kingdom, he said Monday before leaving to make a presentation today during the World of Concrete 2005 show at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Concrete Washout Systems charges \$200 per month to rent its watertight 8-by-12-by-2-foot steel bin that captures and contains all the leftover concrete and the water used to wash ready-mix trucks, pumps, mixers, chutes, hand tools and wheelbarrows. When the bin is full at the construction site -- after



Stockton, California
Friday, Jan. 21, 2005

High: 50
Low: 40

[5 Day Forecast](#)

[7 Day News Search](#)

BREAKING NEWS

[Fannie Mae to Withhold Executives' Bonuses](#)

[US Airways Machinists OK Pay, Benefit Cuts](#)

[MedQuist Gets Subpoena in Massachusetts](#)

[GE Reports 18 Percent Earnings Jump in 4Q](#)

[Sprint Offers Bonuses to Stick With Firm](#)

FEATURES

[Stockton Cal](#)

[The Meeting Place](#)

[San Joaquin A+](#)

[Valley Home Finder](#)

[Valley Job Finder](#)

[Newspaper in Education](#)

MONEY

- [Money News](#)
- [Business Journal](#)
- [AP Money Wire](#)
- [Stock Market](#)
- [Money Columnists](#)
- [Calendars](#)

NEWS

- [Local News](#)
- [National News](#)
- [Lodi Lode](#)
- [In School](#)
- [Tracy Metro](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Crime Stoppers](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [911 Calls](#)
- [Weather](#)
- ['Hoods 'n' Hamlets](#)
- [What's Here](#)

TECHNOLOGY

- [Technology News](#)

SPORTS

- [Sports News](#)
- [Local Sports](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Prep Sports](#)
- [Sports Calendar](#)
- [Sports Extra](#)

LIFESTYLE

- [Today](#)
- [Timeout](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Youthink](#)
- [Today's Calendar](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [TV](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Engagements](#)
- [Anniversaries](#)
- [Good Taste in S.J.](#)
- [Vintage Lifestyles](#)
- [Travel News](#)

- ▶ [Health News](#)
- ▶ [Parenting](#)

CLASSIFIED

- ▶ [Announcements](#)
- ▶ [Automotive](#)
- ▶ [Careers](#)
- ▶ [Help Wanted](#)
- ▶ [Employment](#)
- [Services](#)
- ▶ [Self-Employment](#)
- ▶ [Business](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- ▶ [Farm & Ranch](#)
- ▶ [Legal Notices](#)
- ▶ [Merchandise](#)
- ▶ [Mobile Homes](#)
- ▶ [Personals](#)
- ▶ [Real Estate](#)
- ▶ [Recreation](#)
- ▶ [Rentals](#)
- ▶ [Services](#)

COLUMNISTS

- ▶ [Mike Fitzgerald](#)
- ▶ [Francis Garland](#)
- ▶ [Lori Gilbert](#)
- ▶ [Eric Grunder](#)
- ▶ [Jeff Hood](#)

COMMUNITY

- ▶ [Community Info](#)
- ▶ [Government Officials](#)
- ▶ [Events](#)
- ▶ [Stockton Cal](#)

RESOURCES

- ▶ [Daniel Green Slippers](#)
- ▶ [Sony & Panasonic](#)
- [Portable DvD Players](#)
- ▶ [Conference Call Service - \\$50/month](#)
- ▶ [Swords](#)
- ▶ [Zippo Lighters](#)
- ▶ [Gebrauchte Autos](#)
- ▶ [Travel](#)
- ▶ [Spiele und Games](#)
- ▶ [alcohol rehab program](#)
- ▶ [College Loans & Student](#)
- [Loan Consolidation](#)
- ▶ [phentermine](#)
- ▶ [Jeans](#)
- ▶ [Compare Travel](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- ▶ [Epson Printer Ink](#)
- [Cartridges](#)
- ▶ [Home Security](#)
- ▶ [Baby Gifts](#)

an average of 38 trucks and two pumpers have discharged their waste -- the water is vacuumed out, the bin full of about 5.5 cubic yards of hardened concrete is picked up and a clean bin is dropped off for an additional \$325.

Many developers and builders who use the system say it's a small price to pay considering the \$10,000 fine levied for illegal discharges into a stormwater drain.

"I wish they were everywhere. They are just great to have. I wish a lot of our contractors would get them. If a lot of contractors are working in a subdivision, maybe they can all chip in to get one for the area," said Anna Brocchini, a dispatcher for Sacramento-based Jim Dupzyk Pumping who sends concrete-pumping trucks to construction sites throughout the region.

"It's really a good product for our end of it. It takes a lot of the hassle away from us and a lot of the liability away from the developers," said Mike Regan, a sales representative for Stockton-based Concrete Inc., which operates 70 ready-mix trucks.

"We used to just wash out on vacant lots or wherever we could. But now with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan rules, it's a \$10,000 fine. Their system is environmentally friendly and a win-win for everybody," he said.

... Advertisement ...

Regan said Concrete Inc. was the first ready-mix operator in Northern California to equip all its trucks with a self-contained recovery system at \$1,200 each. This happened a few years ago.

"They were pretty expensive to install. We still use them, because there's not a (Concrete Washout) bin on every project. Hay bales and visquene is not a very good system. There are instances where you rip that membrane, and the water goes right down into the street," he said.

"The better developers are beginning to figure this out. From a supplier's standpoint, this is just one less headache to worry about," Regan said.

Jake Nichols, owner of KBN Concrete Pumping of Stockton, has seen Concrete Washout Systems bins around construction sites but hasn't used one yet, since his typical job is a backyard patio or driveway. His normal cleanup procedure is to throw a tarp down in a back yard to capture the waste. He said he uses about 15 gallons of water during cleanup.

"Their system wouldn't really be cost-effective for me. I'd have to move the bin every day," Nichols said.

"Just about any housing development going up these days, you can find one. You can't just dump it on the ground like we used to do. It's a pretty hefty fine. They're cracking way down on it these days," he said.

Nichols was referring to stepped-up efforts by government regulators at all levels to ensure that developers comply with their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program. The fine for illegal discharges that starts out at \$10,000 per day plus \$10 per gallon can reach \$27,500 per day if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gets involved.

San Joaquin County senior engineer Charles Kelley supervises stormwater

runoff outside the county's cities. Steering clear of recommending Concrete Washout Systems' bins, he did say their product is "a good step toward protecting the environment."

He said the rules require developers and builders, most typically on subdivisions and roadways, to provide a concrete cleanout plan.

"They have choices, either a lined pit or a recycling bin, and we let them know what those are. A pit created by placing visquene over hay bales works on subdivisions but not very well on road jobs," he said.

Jenkins said that every bit of material collected in the bin is recycled. The concrete is generally put to use as road base. The company also has developed a patent-pending treatment and recycling system to reduce the contaminant levels in the washwater so it can be recycled or used for other applications.

Those efforts have been recognized by the National Ready Mix Concrete Association with its 2004 Environmental Innovation Award, the Sacramento County Business Environment Resource Center with its 2004 Pollution Prevention Award and by the Sacramento Environmental Commission for voluntarily exceeding environmental regulatory requirements.

Nationwide, there are between 700 and 800 Concrete Washout Systems bins in use around California, Las Vegas, Denver and Miami.

Concrete Washout Systems hopes to license more partners in other market areas around the country. According to Jenkins, partners would own and operate a Concrete Washout Systems business in a designated region and be responsible for all aspects of the business.

Clients include local and national builders such as Granite Construction, Teichert Construction, A.G. Spanos Cos., DSS Engineering, Buzz Oates Group of Companies, Bloom Construction, KB Homes, Centex, Morrison Homes and many others.

* To reach reporter Joe Goldeen, phone **(209) 546-8278** or e-mail jgoldeen@recordnet.com

How much waste?

The amount of concrete washout material and washwater generated nationally from ready-mix concrete trucks and pumpers each year adds up to:

- * Enough concrete to build an eight-lane freeway system 175 miles long.
 - * About 75 percent of the concrete used to construct Hoover Dam.
 - * Enough water to supply a city of 50,000 people for nearly three months.
 - * Information: **(877) 2-WASHOUT** or www.concretewashout.com
-

RECORDNET
 Subscribe
 Preferred Customer
 Ad Placer
 Record Design
 Job Opportunities
CONTACT US





[Back to Top](#)



Subscribe - Subscribe online to have The Record delivered to your door every morning.

Vacation hold - If you are going on vacation, we can stop your newspaper while you are away.

Ad Placer - Place a classified ad today! [Click here](#)



Last modified: January 21 2005 00:50:35.

Copyright © 2005 The Record, All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy and Terms of Use](#). For more info contact webmaster@recordnet.com