

Storm Water Control Guidelines for Construction Sites

**The City of Live Oak
Bexar County, Texas**

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Storm Water Control Guidelines for Construction Sites

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Introduction

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Clean Water Pollution Control Act, later referred to as the Clean Water Act, prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to navigable waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program began with reducing pollutants in industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage treatment plant discharges. Now the efforts have been expanded to address more diffuse sources of water pollution, such as storm water runoff from construction sites.

The Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program implements the federal NPDES program in the state of Texas. Under the TPDES program, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) specifies Phase II general permit requirements for construction activity. These guidelines, "Storm Water Runoff Control Guidelines for Construction Sites," are intended to help the City to comply with the TPDES program and the Phase II general permit requirements. These guidelines establish standards for implementing and enforcing a program to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff that is discharged to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

These guidelines apply to construction activities disturbing:

1. A land area greater than or equal to one acre and less than 5 acres, and
2. A land area less than one acre if that construction activity is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one acre or more.

Construction activities disturbing:

1. 5 or more acres of land, or
2. less than 5 acres that are part of a larger plan of development or sale that is 5 or more acres in size, and

that discharge storm water into the MS4 or waters of the U.S., require coverage by the EPA Region 6 **Construction General Permit** (63 FR 36490) and are not directly regulated by the City. The construction activity operator must seek coverage under the Construction General Permit from the appropriate authority and copies of the proper erosion and sedimentation control plan or storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) must be submitted to the City as a part of its building permit process.

These guidelines are part of a program that includes:

1. Ordinance 1433, which requires erosion and sediment controls according to these guidelines and, which establishes sanctions to ensure compliance;
2. Requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control (ESC) best management practices (BMPs);
3. Requirements for construction site operators to control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality;
4. Procedures for site plan review which incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts;
5. Procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public, and
6. Procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures.

This document and these guidelines are based on information provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the TCEQ at the following web sites:

1. <http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/construct.html>, 2. http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/con_site.cfm, and
3. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/phase2.cfm>.

As some areas of the city fall within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ), additional requirements may apply to construction sites. The guidelines in this document do not mitigate any pertinent rules and regulations that may apply for protection of the aquifer. Construction sites within the EARZ will be governed by the most stringent rules and regulations that apply. Please refer to 30 TAC 213 (Texas Administrative Code) and the Edwards Aquifer Authority Rules.

Land Grading

Submittal

Submit a grading plan that establishes:

1. Areas of the site to be graded,
2. Drainage patterns,
3. Runoff velocities,
4. The schedule for earthwork (start and stop dates),
5. The degree and length of finished slopes,
6. Disposal sites,
7. Borrow locations,
8. The location and design of berms, diversions, and other BMPs that require excavation or fill.

Limit grading to only those areas necessary for building activities and equipment traffic. When reasonable, maintain undisturbed temporary or permanent buffer zones down slope of the grading operation to provide a low-cost sediment control measure that will help reduce runoff and off-site sedimentation.

Inspection

The site may be inspected by the city for improper grading practices, erosion, and sedimentation. Make sure that grading crews carefully follow the approved plan.

Maintenance

The contractor must periodically check all graded areas and supporting erosion and sediment control practices, especially after rainfall. All sediment should be removed from diversions and other storm water conveyances promptly. If washouts or breaks occur, they must be repaired immediately. Promptly repair eroded areas to prevent them from becoming larger.

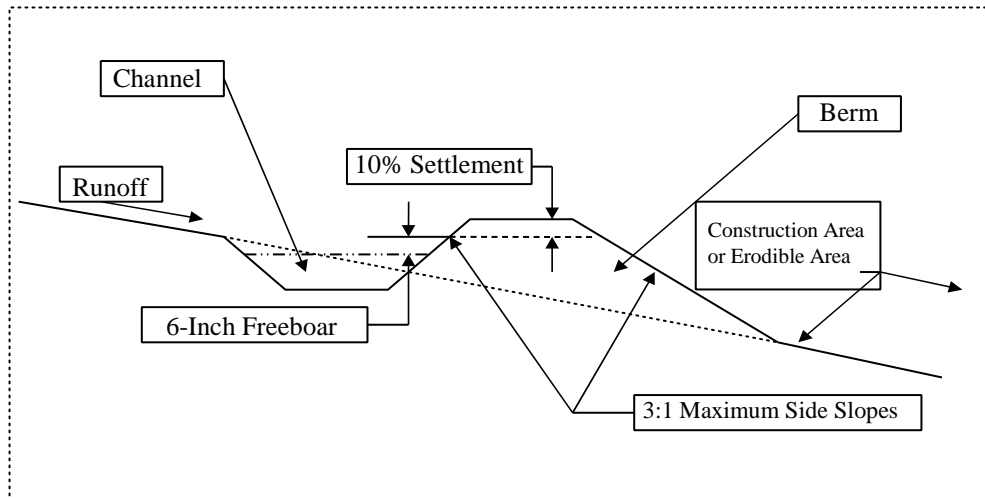
Permanent Diversions

Description

Diversions are used in areas where runoff from areas of higher elevation poses a threat of erosion and undesirable vegetative damage. Diversions protect disturbed areas and erodible areas by reducing the size of contributing drainage areas and, consequently, by reducing the amount of runoff that contacts the area to be protected. Diversions are often constructed by cutting channels across a slope and by constructing a berm or earthen ridge immediately down slope of the channel.

Design

1. *Berm.* Must be constructed from compacted clay. The cross section of the berm or earthen ridge must have side slopes no steeper than 3:1; a width at the design water elevation of at least 4 feet; a minimum freeboard of 0.3 feet; and an allowance for 10 percent settlement included in the design.
2. *Outlet.* Four elements of an outlet channel system are:
 1. *Earth channel.* A permanent waterway designed with a vegetative lining to resist erosion and to have adequate discharge capacity. The following general specifications are required for channel construction:
 - Remove obstructions and unsuitable material, such as trees, roots, brush, stumps, and excess soil from the channel area and dispose of properly.
 - Use the Manning Equation in areas outside of the FEMA floodplain to design the channel grade and cross section to have adequate capacity, to be erosion resistant, and to prevent sedimentation.
 - Compact fill to ensure equal settlement and to prevent erosion.
 - Design pilot channels in large channels adequate to convey the 2-year flood or base flow, whichever is larger.
 - Design channel outfalls to be erosion-resistant.



Typical Cross Section for Channel and Berm

2. *Level spreader.* An outfall configured to spread concentrated flow out over a broad area to reduce flow velocities. The lower velocities reduce the potential for erosion and sometimes help to improve infiltration. A level spreader is usually constructed by excavating a depression in the soil. One side of the depression has a low edge that is constant in elevation (level). The low edge must be adjacent to and discharge runoff to a well-vegetated, flat, mild-sloped area. The following general specifications are required for level spreader construction:

- Construct on natural soils and not on fill material or easily erodible soils.
- Construct a level discharge from the spreader to ensure the flow can be evenly distributed.
- Prevent heavy equipment and traffic on the level spreader, as they can cause compaction of soil and disturbance of the slope grade.
- Regrade the spreader if ponding or erosion channels develop.
- Maintain dense vegetation and repair damaged areas when necessary.

3. *Outfall protection.* Construct lined aprons or other energy-dissipating devices at the outlets of pipes and channels to reduce the velocity of storm water flows and to thereby prevent scouring at storm water outfalls, to protect the outlet structure, and to minimize potential for erosion downstream. The following general specifications are required for outfall construction:

- Avoid horizontal bends.
- Construct the apron bottom horizontal in a longitudinal direction.
- Construct the invert of an apron to match the elevation of the receiving channel. It may not be higher than the receiving channel.
- Receiving channels may not have side slopes steeper than 3:1.
- Line aprons with rock riprap, grouted rock riprap, concrete riprap, or gabion baskets.
- Place geotextile or filter fabric between rock riprap and the underlying soil to prevent any soil movement through the riprap.
- Grout for grouted riprap must be one-part Portland cement for every 3 parts sand, mixed thoroughly with water. Once stones are in place, the spaces between them are to be filled with grout to a minimum depth of 6 inches, with the deeper portions choked with fine material.
- Construct the downstream invert of a paved channel to smoothly join the receiving channel section. The invert may not be higher than the invert of a receiving earth channel.

4. *Paved channel.* A permanent channel that is lined with concrete, rock, asphalt, pavers, etc. to reduce the potential for erosion. The following general specifications are required for paved channels:

The subgrade must be constructed to required elevations, with all soft portions and unsuitable material removed and replaced with suitable material, must be thoroughly compacted and smoothed to a uniform surface, and must be moist when the concrete is poured.

- Design the paved channel for adequate capacity outside FEMA floodplains using the Manning Equation.

- Grade subgrade to required elevations. Remove all soft and unsuitable material from the subgrade. Compact the subgrade to 95% of optimum density and smooth to a uniform surface.
- Moisten the subgrade prior to placing concrete.
- Construct the slope of the structure at 1.5:1 or less.
- Construct toe-downs at the upstream and downstream ends of any paved channels that are not adjoined to another structure. Extend Toe-downs the full width of the channel. Construct toe-downs at least 6 inches thick and at least 18 inches into the soil under the channel. Large channels will require greater thicknesses and depths.
- Construct anchor lugs no more than 10 feet apart on center, monolithic with the channel lining.
- Construct lugs the full bottom width of the channel, at least 6 inches thick, and extending at least 1 foot into the soil under the channel.
- Concrete linings shall be class A-3, at least 4 inches thick, and shall be reinforced with rebar or welded wire fabric.
- Construct transverse joints at 20-foot intervals, maximum, and at locations where more than 45 minutes elapses between adjoining concrete placements.
- Construct expansion joints approximately every 90 feet.
- Protect paved channel outlets erosion through the use of an energy dissipating device and/or outfall protection.

Stabilization. Seed and mulch or sod berms, earth channels, and disturbed areas immediately after they are constructed. Keep sediment-trapping measures in place until the upslope area is stabilized to prevent soil from moving into the diversion.

Maintenance

Inspect after every rainfall and a minimum of once every 2 weeks before final stabilization. Clear sediment, make repairs, and seed or sod damaged areas if a vegetative cover is not established.

References

- Smolen, M.D., D.W. Miller, L.C. Wyatt, J. Lichthardt, and A.L. Lanier. 1988. *Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and Division of Land Resources Land Quality Section, Raleigh, NC.
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- USEPA. 1992. *Storm Water Management for Industrial Activities: Developing Pollution Prevention Plans and Best Management Practices*. EPA 832-R-92-006. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC.
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. 1995. *Virginia Erosion & Sediment Control Field Manual. Second Edition*. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Richmond, VA.

Preserving Natural Vegetation

Description

Avoid clearing and disturbing land that does not need to be used for construction. The natural vegetation will help to provide erosion control, storm water detention, bio-filtration, and aesthetic value to a site during and after construction activities.

Design

Mark vegetation to be preserved before clearing activities begin. Develop a site plan with the locations of trees and boundaries of environmentally sensitive areas and buffer zones to be preserved. Plan the location of roads, buildings, and other structures to avoid these areas. Manage construction activities to minimize the impact on existing vegetation. Protect larger trees (6-inch diameter, minimum) that are located near construction zones. Mark boundaries around larger tree drip lines to protect the root zone from damage. Prevent filling and excavation within the drip line of the larger trees.

Consider the following factors when selecting trees for preservation:

- *Tree vigor.* Preserve healthy trees that will be less susceptible to damage, disease, and insects. Indicators of poor vigor include dead tips of branches, stunted leaf growth, sparse foliage, and pale foliage color. Hollow, rotten, split, cracked, or leaning trees also have less chance of survival.
- *Tree age.* Older trees are more aesthetically pleasing. Make sure they are healthy before marking them for preservation.
- *Tree species.* Preserve species well-suited to present and future site conditions.
- *Wildlife benefits.* Preserve trees that are preferred by wildlife for food, cover, and nesting.

Consider the following when preserving natural vegetation:

- Maintain the natural ground contours and maintain preconstruction drainage patterns as much as possible. Altering the hydrology may kill vegetation intended for preservation.
- Do not nail boards to trees during building operations.
- Do not cut tree roots inside the drip line.
- Install barriers to prevent equipment from entering protected areas.
- Do not place equipment, construction materials, topsoil, or fill dirt within preservation areas or within the drip lines of trees to be preserved.
- Remove barriers from preserved areas and trees only after construction is complete.

References

Smolen, M.D., D.W. Miller, L.C. Wyall, J. Lichthardt, and A.L. Lanier. 1988. *Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and Division of Land Resources Land Quality Section, Raleigh, NC.

USEPA. 1992. *Storm Water Management for Industrial Activities: Developing Pollution Prevention Plans and Best Management Practices*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC.

Construction Entrances

Description

Construction entrances are stabilized driveways located where construction traffic leaves the site. The stabilized surface provides a rugged substrate that promotes the removal of mud from equipment tires before vehicles leave the site. This reduces the amount of sediment that the vehicle will track offsite and onto the city right-of-way. The construction entrance also reduces erosion and rutting of the soil beneath the stabilization structure.

Sometimes the construction entrance is not enough to prevent equipment from tracking sediment offsite. In such cases, add a vehicle wash station to complete the removal of sediment from equipment wheels. Divert runoff from vehicle wash stations into a sediment trap to help ensure that sediment removed from vehicles is kept on-site and disposed of properly.

Design

Stabilize the entrances to a site that will be used by equipment and vehicles by placing a filter fabric over the entrance area and by placing rock on top of the filter fabric. The depth of rock must not be less than 6 inches. Stabilize prior to disturbing the site. Make stabilized entrances long enough and wide enough to accommodate the largest construction vehicle that will be on site. Make the entrance wide enough for two lanes of traffic if needed. Flare the end of the construction entrance that abuts the public street so that long vehicles do not leave the stabilized area when turning. Install a bridge or culvert if the construction site entrance crosses a stream, swale, or other depression. Use stone that large enough that it will not be carried offsite with vehicle traffic. Avoid using sharp-edged stone to reduce the possibility of puncturing vehicle tires.

Maintenance

Maintain the construction entrance in a stabilized condition until the construction site has been fully stabilized. Add rock periodically as needed to keep the entrance effective. Soil that is tracked offsite should be swept up immediately for proper disposal. Construct and maintain sediment traps for wash racks, when used, for the duration of the project. Periodically remove sediment from the traps to ensure their continued effectiveness.

References

Corish, K. 1995. *Clearing and Grading Strategies for Urban Watersheds*. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington, DC.

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USEPA. 1993. *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters*. EPA 840-B-92-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC.

Filter Berms

Description

A filter berm is a temporary ridge made up of loose gravel, stone, or crushed rock that slows runoff, filters sediment, and promotes sedimentation on site.

Design

Use the following guidelines to construct and to build the berm:

- Use well-graded gravel or crushed rock.
- Space berms according to the steepness of the slope, with berms spaced closer together as the slope increases. Install only on moderate to mild slopes.

Maintenance

Inspect filter berms every two weeks and after every rain event. Remove accumulated sediment and repair damage. Replace clogged filter material.

References

Fifield, S.J. 1997. *Field Manual for Effective Sediment and Erosion Control Methods*. Hydrodynamics, Inc., Parker, CO.

USEPA. 1992. *Storm Water Management for Construction Activities: Developing Pollution Prevention Plans and Best Management Practices*. EPA 832-R-92-005. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC.

Grass-Lined Channels

Description

Lining channels with vegetation reduces the flow velocity and reduces the potential for erosion. Grass-lined channels usually are not designed to control peak runoff loads by themselves and are often used in combination with other BMPs, such as subsurface drains and riprap stabilization.

Design

The channel should not receive direct sedimentation from disturbed areas and should be sited only on the perimeter of a construction site to convey relatively clean storm water runoff.

Channels should be separated from disturbed areas by a vegetated buffer or other BMP to reduce sediment loads.

Use the following guidelines for design and construction:

- Use vegetated buffers or other BMPs to separate channels from disturbed areas.
- Construct and vegetate the channel before beginning grading and paving activities.
- Use sod, netted mulch, or geotextiles to stabilize the channel until the vegetation is fully established.
- Install outlet stabilization structures if required to prevent erosion.
- Design channels to convey runoff from a 10-year flood without erosion by keeping the design velocity below 6 feet per second. Design channels to convey a 2-year flood without sedimentation by keeping the design velocity greater than 2 feet per second.
- Slope channel sides at 3:1 or less.
- Remove trees, brushes, stumps, and other debris during construction.

Maintenance

Maintain a dense and vigorous growth of turf. Check for sediment and debris every two weeks and after rain events. Mow regularly after the vegetation is established to maintain hydraulic capacity.

References

- FHWA. 1995. *Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control*. FHWA-SLP-94005. Federal Highway Administration, Sterling, VA.
- MPCA. 1998. *Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas*. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Division of Water Quality, St. Paul, MN.
- Smolen, M.D., D.W. Miller, L.C. Wyatt, J. Lichthardt, and A.L. Lanier. 1988. *Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and Division of Land Resources Land Quality Section, Raleigh, NC.
- SWRPC. 1991. *Costs of Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Measures*. Technical Report No. 31. Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Waukesha, WI.

Rock Riprap

Description

Rock riprap is a permanent, erosion-resistant layer made of stones. It is used to protect soil from erosion in areas of concentrated runoff, such as channels, outlet aprons, culverts, and stream banks. Riprap may also be used to stabilize slopes that are unstable because of seepage problems.

Design

Riprap may be unstable on very steep slopes, especially when rounded rock is used. For slopes steeper than 2:1, consider using materials other than riprap for erosion protection. If riprap is being planned for the bottom of a permanently flowing channel, the bottom can be modified to enhance fish habitat. This can be done by constructing riffles and pools which simulate natural conditions. These riffles promote aeration and the pools provide deep waters for habitats.

Use the following guidelines to design and to construct rock riprap:

- *Gradation.* Use a well-graded mixture of rock instead of one uniform size.
- *Quality of stone.* Rock riprap must be durable.
- *Riprap depth.* Design the thickness of riprap layers to be at least 2 times the maximum stone diameter.
- *Filter material.* Filter material is usually required between rock riprap and the underlying soil surface to prevent the rock from settling into the soil. Use a filter fabric or a suitably-sized layer of gravel for the filter.
- *Riprap Limits.* Cover the entire channel bottom with riprap. Extend coverage up the channel sides to the maximum flow depth (plus super elevation on curves) or to a point where vegetation will be satisfactory to control erosion.
- *Curves.* Cover the entire channel with rock riprap throughout the curve and upstream and downstream of the curve for a distance of five times the bottom width. Account for super elevation of the water surface.
- *Riprap Size.* Use standard charts to size the rock riprap and filters based on velocity.
- *Slope.* Use slopes less than or equal to 2:1.

Maintenance

Inspect rock riprap after rainfall events. Repair damaged areas promptly to prevent a progressive failure. If repairs are needed repeatedly at one location, evaluate the conditions to determine if the original design needs to be modified. Control weed and brush growth.

References

- FHWA. 1995. *Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control*. FHWA-SLP-94005. Federal Highway Administration, Sterling, VA.
- Mayo, L., D. Lehman, L. Olinger, B. Donovan, and P. Mangarella. 1993. *Urban BMP Cost and Effectiveness Summary Data for 6217(g) Guidance: Erosion and Sediment Control During Construction*. Woodward-Clyde Consultants.
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- SWRPC. 1991. *Costs of Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Measures*.

Chemical Stabilization

Description

Chemical stabilizers, also known as soil binders or soil palliatives, provide temporary soil stabilization, especially where temporary seeding and permanent vegetation are not effective. Materials made of vinyl, asphalt, or rubber are sprayed onto the surface of exposed soils to hold the soil in place and to protect against erosion from runoff and wind. Chemicals used for stabilization are easily applied to the surface of the soil, can be effective in stabilizing areas where vegetative practices cannot be established, and provide immediate protection.

Design

Follow the application rates and procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Prevent the products from forming ponds and avoid creating impervious areas where storm water cannot infiltrate.

Maintenance Considerations

Inspect chemically stabilized areas every two weeks and after rain events for signs of erosion. Reapply stabilizers if necessary.

References

Aicardo, R. 1996. Screening of Polymers to Determine Their Potential Use in Erosion Control on Construction Sites. In *Proceedings from Conference held at College of Southern Idaho: Managing Irrigation-Induced Erosion and Infiltration with Polyacrylamide, May 6–8, 1996, Twin Falls, ID*. University of Idaho Miscellaneous Publication No. 101-96.

Terra Firma Industries. 1999. *Soil Master WR*. [www.terra-firma-ind.com]. Last updated December 10, 1999. Accessed January 2001.

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Mulching

Description

Mulching is a temporary erosion control practice in which materials such as grass, hay, wood chips, wood fibers, straw, or gravel are placed on exposed or recently planted soil surfaces. Mulching is often used in conjunction with vegetation establishment and can reduce storm water runoff velocity. Mulching can aid plant growth by holding seeds, fertilizers, and topsoil

in place; preventing birds from eating seeds; retaining moisture; and insulating plant roots against extreme temperatures.

Mulch mattings are materials such as jute or other wood fibers that are formed into sheets and are more stable than loose mulch. Jute and other wood fibers, plastic, paper, or cotton can be used individually or combined into mats to hold mulch to the ground. Netting can be used to stabilize soils while plants are growing, although netting does not retain moisture or insulate against extreme temperatures. Sometimes mulch binders, consisting of asphalt or synthetic materials, are used instead of netting.

Applicability

Mulching is often used in areas where temporary seeding cannot be used because of environmental constraints. Mulching can provide immediate, effective, and inexpensive erosion control. On steep slopes and critical areas such as waterways, mulch matting is used with netting or anchoring to hold it in place. Mulches can be used on seeded and planted areas where slopes are steeper than 2:1 or where sensitive seedlings require insulation from extreme temperatures or moisture retention.

Design

When possible, use organic mulches such as loose straw, netting, wood cellulose, or agricultural silage for erosion control and plant material establishment. All materials should be free of seed, and loose hay or straw should be anchored by applying a tackifier, stapling netting over the top, or crimping with a mulch crimping tool. Materials that are heavy enough to stay in place (gravel, bark or wood chips on flat slopes) do not need anchoring. Other examples include hydraulic mulch products with 100-percent post-consumer paper content, yard trimming composts, and wood mulch from recycled stumps and tree parts. Inorganic mulches such as pea gravel or crushed granite can be used in unvegetated areas.

Mulches may or may not require a binder, netting, or tacking. Effective use of netting and matting material requires firm, continuous contact between the materials and the soil. If there is no contact, the material will not hold the soil and erosion will occur underneath the material. Grading is not necessary before mulching.

Ensure adequate coverage to prevent erosion, washout, and poor plant establishment. If an appropriate tacking agent is not applied, or is applied in insufficient amounts, mulch will be lost to wind and runoff. The channel grade and liner must be appropriate for the amount of runoff, or there will be resulting erosion of the channel bottom. Also, hydromulch is an acceptable method to apply mulch. Table 1 presents guidelines for installing mulches.

Table 1. Typical mulching materials and application rates

Material	Rate per Acre	Requirements	Notes
Organic Mulches			
Straw	1 - 2 tons	Dry, unchopped, unweathered; avoid weeds.	Spread by hand or machine; must be tacked or tied down.
Wood fiber or wood cellulose	½ - 1 ton		Use with hydroseeder; may be used to tack straw. Do not use in hot, dry weather.

Wood chips	5 - 6 tons	Air dry. Add fertilizer N, 12 lb/ton.	Apply with blower, chip handler, or by hand. Not for fine turf areas.
Bark	35 yd ³	Air dry, shredded, or hammermilled, or chips.	Apply with mulch blower, chip handler, or by hand. Do not use asphalt tack.
Nets and Mats			
Jute net	Cover area	Heavy, uniform; woven of single jute yarn. Used with organic mulch.	Withstands water flow.
Excelsior (wood fiber) mat	Cover area		
Fiberglass roving	½ - 1 ton	Continuous fibers of drawn glass bound together with a non-toxic agent.	Apply with compressed air ejector. Tack with emulsified asphalt at a rate of 25 - 35 gal./1000 ft. ²

Maintenance

Anchor mulches to resist wind displacement. Remove netting when protection is no longer needed and dispose of properly. Inspect mulched areas every two weeks and after every rain event to identify areas where mulch has loosened or has been removed. Reseed exposed seed beds and replace the mulch cover immediately. Replace netting as required. Continue inspections until vegetation is firmly established.

References

- Harding, M.V. 1990. Erosion Control Effectiveness: Comparative Studies of Alternative Mulching Techniques. *Environmental Restoration*, pp. 149–156, as cited in USEPA. 1993. *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters*. EPA 840-B-92-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC.
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Permanent Seeding

Description

Permanent seeding is used to control runoff and erosion on disturbed areas by establishing perennial vegetative cover from seed. It is used to reduce erosion, to decrease sediment yields from disturbed areas, and to provide permanent stabilization. This practice is economical, adaptable to different site conditions, and allows selection of the most appropriate plant materials.

Design

Select plants that are suitable for the site. Prepare seed beds adequately and fertilize as required. Water and maintain as required. Consult with a landscaper to ensure proper growth and coverage.

Maintenance

Inspect seeded areas twice a week and after rain events. Make repairs and reseed as soon as possible. If a stand has inadequate cover, the choice of plant materials and quantities of lime and fertilizer should be reevaluated. Depending on the condition of the stand, areas can be repaired by overseeding or reseeding after complete seedbed preparation. If the season is wrong for reseeding, overseed with rye grain or German millet to thicken the stand until a suitable time for seeding perennials. Consider seeding temporary, annual species if the season is not appropriate for permanent seeding. If vegetation fails to grow, soil should be tested to determine if low pH or nutrient imbalances are responsible.

On a typical disturbed site, full plant establishment usually requires re-fertilization in the second growing season. Soil tests can be used to determine if more fertilizer needs to be added. Do not fertilize cool season grasses in late May through July. Grass that looks yellow may be nitrogen deficient. Do not use nitrogen fertilizer if the stand contains more than 20 percent legumes.

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FHWA. 1995. *Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control*. FHWA-SLP-94005. Federal Highway Administration, Sterling, VA.

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Sodding

Description

Sodding is a permanent erosion control practice that involves laying a continuous cover of grass sod on exposed soils. Sodding stabilizes soils and reduces the velocity of storm water runoff. Sodding can provide immediate vegetative cover for critical areas and stabilize areas that cannot be vegetated by seed. It also can stabilize channels or swales that convey concentrated flows and can reduce flow velocities.

Design

Sodding eliminates the need for seeding and mulching and produces more reliable results with less maintenance. Sod can be laid during times of the year when seeded grasses are likely to fail. The sod must be watered frequently within the first few weeks of installation. The type of sod selected should be composed of plants adapted to site conditions. Sod composition should reflect environmental conditions as well as the function of the area where the sod will be laid. The sod should be of known genetic origin and be free of noxious weeds, diseases, and insects. The sod should be machine cut at a uniform soil thickness of 0.6 inches to 1 inch (15 to 25 mm) at the time of establishment (this does not include top growth or thatch).

Prepare the soil and add lime and fertilizer as needed; soils should be tested to determine if amendments are needed. Lay sod in strips perpendicular to the direction of flow and staggered in a brick-like pattern. Staple the corners and middle of each strip firmly. Peg jute or plastic netting over the sod for further protection against washout during establishment, if necessary. Clear areas to be sodded of trash, debris, roots, branches, stones and clods larger than 2 inches in diameter. Sod should be harvested, delivered, and installed within a period of 36 hours.

Consult a landscaper to ensure proper establishment.

Maintenance

Watering is very important to maintain adequate moisture in the root zone and to prevent dormancy, especially within the first few weeks of installation, until it is fully rooted. Mowing should not result in the removal of more than one-third of the shoot. Grass height should be maintained between 2 and 3 inches. After the first growing season, sod might require

additional fertilization or liming. Permanent, fine turf areas require yearly maintenance fertilization. Warm-season grass should be fertilized in late spring to early summer, and cool season grass, in late winter and again in early fall.

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Soil Roughening

Description

Soil roughening is a temporary erosion control practice often used in conjunction with grading. Soil roughening involves increasing the relief of a bare soil surface with horizontal grooves, stair-stepping (running parallel to the contour of the land), or tracking using construction equipment. Slopes that are not fine graded and that are left in a roughened condition can also reduce erosion. Soil roughening reduces runoff velocity, increases infiltration, reduces erosion, traps sediment, and prepares the soil for seeding and planting by giving seed an opportunity to take hold and grow.

Soil roughening is appropriate for all slopes. Soil roughening works well on slopes greater than 3:1, on piles of excavated soil, and in areas with highly erodible soils. This technique is especially appropriate for soils that are frequently mowed or disturbed because roughening is relatively easy to accomplish. To slow erosion, roughening should be done as soon as possible after the vegetation has been removed from the slope. Roughening can be used with both seeding and planting and temporary mulching to stabilize an area. For steeper slopes and slopes that will be left roughened for longer periods of time, a combination of surface roughening and vegetation is appropriate. Roughening should be performed immediately after grading activities have ceased (temporarily or permanently) in an area.

Soil roughening is not appropriate for rocky slopes. Soil compaction might occur when roughening with tracked machinery. Soil roughening is of limited effectiveness in anything more than a gentle or shallow depth rain.

Design

Roughen slope surfaces to allow surface ponding and to lengthen flow paths. Avoid excessive compacting of the soil surface, especially when tracking, because soil compaction inhibits vegetation growth and causes higher runoff velocity. Limit roughening with tracked machinery to sandy soils that do not compact easily and avoid tracking on heavy clay soils, particularly when wet. Seed as quickly as possible after roughening. Implement proper dust control procedures when soil roughening. Select an appropriate method of roughening, depending on the type of slope and the available equipment.

- *Cut slope roughening for areas that will not be mowed.* Use stair-step grades or groove-cut slopes for gradients steeper than 3:1. Stair-step grading should be used on any erodible material that is soft enough to be ripped with a bulldozer. Slopes consisting of soft rock with some subsoil are particularly suited to stair-step grading. The vertical cut distance should be less than the horizontal distance, and the horizontal portion of the step should be slightly sloped toward the vertical wall. Individual vertical cuts should not be made more than 2 feet deep in soft materials or more than 3 feet deep in rocky materials.
- *Grooving.* This technique uses machinery to create a series of ridges and depressions that run across the slope along the contour. Grooves should be made using any appropriate implement that can be safely operated on the slope, such as disks, tillers, spring harrows, or the teeth on a front-end loader bucket. The grooves should be made more than 3 inches deep and less than 15 inches apart.
- *Fill slope roughening for areas that will not be mowed.* Fill slopes with a gradient steeper than 3:1 should be placed in lifts less than 9 inches, and each lift should be properly compacted. The face of the slope should consist of loose, uncompacted fill 4 to 6 inches deep. Grooving should be used as described above to roughen the face of the slopes, if necessary. The final slope face should not be bladed or scraped.
- *Cuts, fills, and graded areas that will be mowed.* Mowed slopes should be made no steeper than 3:1. These areas should be roughened with shallow grooves less than 10 inches apart and more than 1 inch deep using normal tilling, disking, or harrowing equipment (a cultipacker-seeder can also be used). Excessive roughness is undesirable where mowing is planned.

Roughening with tracked machinery. Roughening with tracked machinery should be limited to sandy soils to avoid undue compaction of the soil surface. Tracked machinery should be operated perpendicular to the slope to leave horizontal depressions in the soil. Tracking is generally not as effective as other roughening methods.

Maintenance

Inspect roughened areas after rain events. Regular inspection of roughened slopes will indicate where additional erosion and sediment control measures are needed. If rills (small watercourses that have steep sides and are usually only a few inches deep) appear, they should be filled, graded again, and reseeded immediately. Use proper dust control methods.

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Geotextiles

Description

Geotextiles are porous fabrics also known as filter fabrics, road rugs, synthetic fabrics, construction fabrics, or simply fabrics. Geotextiles are manufactured by weaving or bonding fibers made from synthetic materials such as polypropylene, polyester, polyethylene, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, glass, and various mixtures of these materials. As a synthetic construction material, geotextiles are used for a variety of purposes such as separators, reinforcement, filtration and drainage, and erosion control (USEPA, 1992). Some geotextiles are made of biodegradable materials such as mulch matting and netting. Mulch mattings are jute or other wood fibers that have been formed into sheets and are more stable than normal mulch. Netting is typically made from jute, wood fiber, plastic, paper, or cotton and can be used to hold the mulching and matting to the ground. Netting can also be used alone to stabilize soils while the plants are growing; however, it does not retain moisture or temperature well. Mulch binders (either asphalt or synthetic) are sometimes used instead of netting to hold loose mulches together. Geotextiles can aid in plant growth by holding seeds, fertilizers, and topsoil in place. Fabrics are relatively inexpensive for certain applications. A wide variety of geotextiles exist to match the specific needs of the site.

Geotextiles can be used alone for erosion control. Geotextiles can be used as matting, which is used to stabilize the flow of channels or swales or to protect seedlings on recently planted slopes until they become established. Matting may be used on stream banks, where moving water is likely to wash out new plantings. They can also be used to protect exposed soils immediately and temporarily, such as when active piles of soil are left overnight. Geotextiles are also used as separators; for example, as a separator between riprap and soil. This "sandwiching" prevents the soil from being eroded from beneath the riprap and maintains the riprap's base.

Design

There are many types of geotextiles available. Therefore, the selected fabric should match its purpose. State or local requirements, design procedures, and manufacturer recommendations should be considered. Effective netting and matting require firm,

continuous contact between the materials and the soil. If there is no contact, the material will not hold the soil, and erosion will occur underneath the material.

Maintenance

Regular inspections should be made to determine if cracks, tears, or breaches have formed in the fabric; if so, it should be repaired or replaced immediately. It is necessary to maintain contact between the ground and the geotextile at all times. Trapped sediment should be removed after each storm event.

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Gradient Terraces

Description

Gradient terraces are made of either earthen embankments or ridge and channel systems that are properly spaced and are constructed with an adequate grade. They reduce damage from erosion by collecting and redistributing surface runoff to stable outlets at slower speeds and by increasing the distance of overland runoff flow. They also surpass smooth slopes in holding moisture and help to minimize sediment loading of surface runoff.

Gradient terraces are most suitable for use in areas with an existing or expected water erosion problem and no vegetation, and they are only effective when there are suitable runoff outlets provided. They are usually limited to use on long, steep slopes with a water erosion problem, or where it is anticipated that water erosion will be a problem. They should not be constructed on slopes containing rocky, sandy, or shallow soil.

Design

Gradient terraces should be designed with adequate and appropriate outlets and should be installed according to a well-developed plan after conducting an engineering survey and layout. Acceptable outlets include grassed waterways, vegetated areas, or tile outlets. Any outlet that is used should be able to redirect surface runoff away from the terraces and toward an area that is not susceptible to erosion or other damage. Avoid the potential for sloughing failures.

General specifications require that:

- Whenever possible, vegetative cover should be used in the outlet.
- At the junction of the terrace and the outlet, the terrace's water surface design elevation should be no lower than the outlet's water surface design elevation when both are performing at design flow.
- During construction of the terrace system, dust control procedures should be followed.
- Proper vegetation/stabilization practices should be followed while constructing these features.

Maintenance

Inspect the terraces after any major storms and at least once a year to ensure that they are structurally sound and have not been subject to erosion.

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Soil Retention

Description

Soil retention measures are structures or practices that are used to hold soil in place or to keep it contained within a site boundary. They may include grading or reshaping the ground to lessen steep slopes or shoring excavated areas with wood, concrete, or steel structures. Some soil-retaining measures are used for erosion control, while others are used for protection of workers during construction projects such as excavations.

Grading to reduce steep slopes can be implemented at any construction site by assessing site conditions before breaking ground and reducing steep slopes where possible. Reinforced soil-retaining structures should be used when sites have very steep slopes or loose, highly erodible soils that cause other methods, such as chemical or vegetative stabilization or regrading, to be ineffective. The preconstruction drainage pattern should be maintained to the extent possible.

Design

Some examples of reinforced soil retaining structures include:

- *Skeleton sheeting*. An inexpensive soil bracing system that requires soil to be cohesive and consists of construction grade lumber being used to support the excavated face of a slope

- *Continuous sheeting.* Involves using a material that covers the entire slope continuously, with struts and boards placed along the slope to support the slope face - steel, concrete, or wood should be used as the materials
- *Permanent retaining walls.* Walls of concrete masonry or wood (railroad ties) that are left in place after construction is complete in order to provide continued support of the slope

The proper design of reinforced soil-retaining structures is crucial for erosion control and safety. To ensure safety of the retaining structure, it should be designed by a qualified engineer who understands all of the design considerations, such as the nature of the soil, location of the ground water table, and the expected loads. Care should be taken to ensure that hydraulic pressure does not build up behind the retaining structure and cause failure.

To be effective, soil-retention structures must be designed to handle expected loads. However, heavy rains or mass wasting may damage or destroy these structures and result in sediment inputs to waterbodies. They must be properly installed and maintained to avoid failure.

Maintenance

Soil-stabilization structures should be inspected periodically, particularly after rainstorms, to check for erosion, damage, or other signs of deterioration. Any damage to the actual slope or ditch, such as washouts or breakage, should be repaired prior to any reinstallation of the materials for the soil-stabilization structure.

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Temporary Slope Drain

Description

A temporary slope drain is a flexible conduit extending the length of a disturbed slope and serving as a temporary outlet for a diversion. Temporary slope drains, also called pipe slope drains, convey runoff without causing erosion on or at the bottom of the slope. This practice is a temporary measure used during grading operations until permanent drainage structures are

installed and until slopes are permanently stabilized. They are typically used for less than 2 years.

Temporary slope drains can be used on most disturbed slopes to eliminate gully erosion problems resulting from concentrated flows discharged at a diversion outlet.

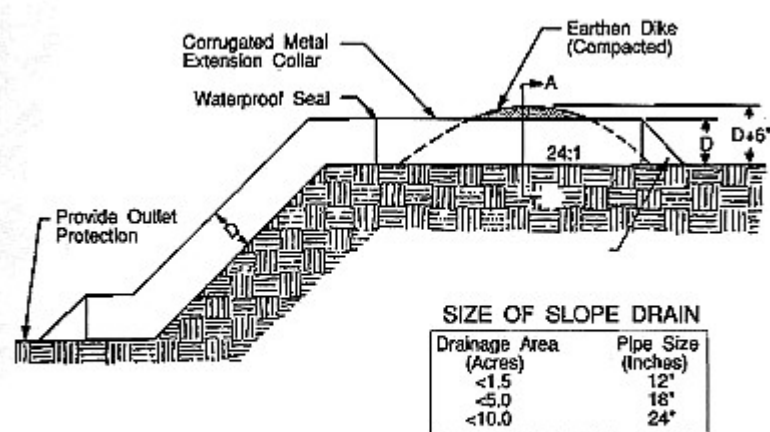
Design

Recently graded slopes that do not have permanent drainage measures installed should have a temporary slope drain and a temporary diversion installed. A temporary slope drain used in conjunction with a diversion conveys storm water flows and reduces erosion until permanent drainage structures are installed.

The following are design recommendations for temporary slope drains:

- The drain should consist of heavy-duty material manufactured for the purpose and have grommets for anchoring at a spacing of 10 feet or less.
- Minimum slope drain diameters should be observed for varying drainage areas.
- The entrance to the pipe should consist of a standard flared section of corrugated metal; the corrugated metal pipe should have watertight joints at the ends; the rest of the pipe is typically corrugated plastic or flexible tubing, although for flatter, shorter slopes, a polyethylene-lined channel is sometimes used.
- The height of the diversion at the pipe should be the diameter of the pipe plus 0.5 foot.
- The outlet should be located at a reinforced or erosion-resistant location.

The area drained by a temporary slope drain should not exceed 5 acres. Physical obstructions substantially reduce the effectiveness of the drain. Other concerns are failures from overtopping because of inadequate pipe inlet capacity, and reduced diversion channel capacity and ridge height.



Drains can be installed along a steep exposed slope to divert runoff and prevent erosion (Source: Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, 1999)

Maintenance

The slope drain should be inspected after each rainfall to determine if capacity was exceeded or if blockages occurred. Repairs should be made promptly. Construction equipment and vehicular traffic must be rerouted around slope drains.

References

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Temporary Stream Crossings

Description

A temporary stream crossing is a structure erected to provide a safe and stable way for construction vehicle traffic to cross a running watercourse. The primary purpose of such a structure is to provide streambank stabilization, reduce the risk of damaging the streambed or channel, and reduce the risk of sediment loading from construction traffic. A temporary stream crossing may be a bridge, a culvert, or a ford.

Temporary stream crossings are applicable wherever heavy construction equipment must be moved from one side of a stream channel to the other, or where lighter construction vehicles will cross the stream a number of times during the construction period. In either case, an appropriate method for ensuring the stability of the streambanks and preventing large-scale erosion is necessary.

A bridge or culvert is the best choice for most temporary stream crossings. If properly designed, each can support heavy loads and materials used to construct most bridges, and culverts can be salvaged after they are removed. Fords are appropriate in steep areas subject to flash flooding, where normal flow is shallow or intermittent across a wide channel. Fords should be used only where stream crossings are expected to be infrequent.

Design

Because of the potential for stream degradation, flooding, and safety hazards, stream crossings should be avoided on a construction site whenever possible. Consideration should be given to alternative routes to accessing a site before arrangements are made to erect a

temporary stream crossing. If it is determined that a stream crossing is necessary, an area where the potential for erosion is low should be selected. If possible, the stream crossing structure should be selected during a dry period to reduce sediment transport into the stream.

If needed, over-stream bridges are generally the preferred temporary stream crossing structure. The expected load and frequency of the stream crossing, however, will govern the selection of a bridge as the correct choice for a temporary stream crossing. Bridges usually cause minimal disturbance to a stream's banks and cause the least obstruction to stream flow and fish migration. They should be constructed only under the supervision and approval of a qualified engineer.

As general guidelines for constructing temporary bridges, clearing and excavation of the stream shores and bed should be kept to a minimum. Sufficient clearance should be provided for floating objects to pass under the bridge. Abutments should be parallel to the stream and on stable banks. If the stream is less than 8 feet wide at the point a crossing is needed, no additional in-stream supports should be used. If the crossing is to extend across a channel wider than 8 feet (as measured from top of bank to top of bank), the bridge should be designed with one in-water support for each 8 feet of stream width.

A temporary bridge should be anchored by steel cable or chain on one side only to a stable structure on shore. Examples of anchoring structures include large-diameter trees, large boulders, and steel anchors. By anchoring the bridge on one side only, there is a decreased risk of downstream blockage or flow diversion if a bridge is washed out.

When constructing a culvert, filter cloth should be used to cover the streambed and streambanks to reduce settlement and improve the stability of the culvert structure. The filter cloth should extend a minimum of 6 inches and a maximum of 1 foot beyond the end of the culvert and bedding material. The culvert piping should not exceed 40 feet in length and should be of sufficient diameter to allow for complete passage of flow during peak flow periods. The culvert pipes should be covered with a minimum of 1 foot of aggregate. If multiple culverts are used, at least 1 foot of aggregate should separate the pipes.

Fords should be constructed of stabilizing material such as large rocks.

Bridges can be considered the greatest safety hazard of all temporary stream crossing structures if not properly designed and constructed. Bridges might also prove to be more costly in terms of repair costs and lost construction time if they are washed out or collapse (Smolen et al., 1988).

The construction and removal of culverts are usually very disturbing to the surrounding area, and erosion and downstream movement of soils is often great. Culverts can also create obstructions to flow in a stream and inhibit fish migration. Depending on their size, culverts can be blocked by large debris in a stream and are therefore vulnerable to frequent washout.

If given a choice between building a bridge or a culvert as a temporary stream crossing, a bridge is preferred because of the relative minimal disturbance to streambanks and the opportunity for unimpeded flow through the channel.

The approaches to fords often have high erosion potential. In addition, excavation of the streambed and approach to lay riprap or other stabilization material causes major stream disturbance. Mud and other debris are transported directly into the stream unless the crossing is used only during periods of low flow.

Maintenance

Temporary stream crossings should be inspected at least once a week and after all significant rainfall events. If any structural damage is reported to a bridge or culvert, construction traffic should stop use of the structure until appropriate repairs are made. Evidence of streambank erosion should be repaired immediately.

Fords should be inspected closely after major storm events to ensure that stabilization materials remain in place. If the material has moved downstream during periods of peak flow, the lost material should be replaced immediately.

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Vegetated Buffer

Description

Vegetated buffers are areas of either natural or established vegetation that are maintained to protect the water quality of neighboring areas. Buffer zones reduce the velocity of storm water runoff, provide an area for the runoff to permeate the soil, contribute to ground water recharge, and act as filters to catch sediment. The reduction in velocity also helps to prevent soil erosion.

Vegetated buffers can be used in any area that is able to support vegetation but they are most effective and beneficial on floodplains, near wetlands, along streambanks, and on steep, unstable slopes. They are also effective in separating land use areas that are not compatible and in protecting wetlands or waterbodies by displacing activities that might be potential sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Design

To establish an effective vegetative buffer, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Soils should not be compacted.
- Slopes should be less than 5 percent.

- Buffer widths should be determined after careful consideration of slope, vegetation, soils, depth to impermeable layers, runoff sediment characteristics, type and quantity of storm water pollutants, and annual rainfall.
- Buffer widths should increase as slope increases.
- Zones of vegetation (native vegetation in particular), including grasses, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, and understory and overstory trees, should be intermixed.
- In areas where flows are concentrated and velocities are high, buffer zones should be combined with other structural or nonstructural BMPs as a pretreatment.

Vegetated buffers require plant growth before they can be effective, and land on which to plant the vegetation must be available. If the cost of the land is very high, buffer zones might not be cost-effective. Although vegetated buffers help to protect water quality, they usually do not effectively counteract concentrated storm water flows to neighboring or downstream wetlands.

Maintenance

Keeping vegetation healthy in vegetated buffers requires routine maintenance, which (depending on species, soil types, and climatic conditions) can include weed and pest control, mowing, fertilizing, liming, irrigating, and pruning. Inspection and maintenance are most important when buffer areas are first installed. Once established, vegetated buffers do not require much maintenance beyond the routine procedures listed earlier and periodic inspections of the areas, especially after any heavy rainfall and at least once a year. Inspections should focus on encroachment, gully erosion, density of vegetation, evidence of concentrated flows through the areas, and any damage from foot or vehicular traffic. If there is more than 6 inches of sediment in one place, it should be removed.

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Construction Sequencing

Description

Construction sequencing requires creating and following a work schedule that balances the timing of land disturbance activities and the installation of measures to control erosion and sedimentation, in order to reduce on-site erosion and off-site sedimentation.

Construction sequencing can be used to plan earthwork and erosion and sediment control (ESC) activities at sites where land disturbances might affect water quality in a receiving waterbody.

Design

Construction sequencing schedules should, at a minimum, include the following:

- The ESC practices that are to be installed
- Principal development activities
- Which measures should be installed before other activities are started
- Compatibility with the general contract construction schedule

Table 1 summarizes other important scheduling considerations in addition to those listed above.

<u>Construction Activity</u>	<u>Schedule Consideration</u>
Construction access	entrance to site, construction routes, areas designated for equipment parking. This is the first land-disturbing activity. As soon as construction begins, stabilize any bare areas with gravel and temporary vegetation.
Sediment traps and barriers	basin traps, sediment fences, outlet protection. After construction site is accessed, principal basins should be installed, with the addition of more traps and barriers as needed during grading.
Runoff control	diversions, perimeter dikes, water bars, outlet protection. Key practices should be installed after the installation of principal sediment traps and before land grading. Additional runoff control measures may be installed during grading.
Runoff conveyance system	stabilize stream banks, storm drains, channels, inlet and outlet protection, slope drains. If necessary, stabilize stream banks as soon as possible, and install principal runoff conveyance system with runoff control measures. The remainder of the systems may be installed after grading.
Land clearing and grading	site preparation (cutting, filling, and grading, sediment traps, barriers, diversions, drains, surface roughening).

Implement major clearing and grading after installation of principal sediment and key runoff-control measures, and install additional control measures as grading continues. Clear borrow and disposal areas as needed, and mark trees and buffer areas for preservation.

Surface stabilization	temporary and permanent seeding, mulching, sodding, riprap Temporary or permanent stabilizing measures should be applied immediately to any disturbed areas where work has been either completed or delayed.
Building construction	buildings, utilities, paving During construction, install any erosion and sedimentation control measures that are needed.
Landscaping & final stabilization	topsoiling, trees and shrubs, permanent seeding, mulching, sodding, riprap This is the last construction phase. Stabilize all open areas, including borrow and spoil areas, and remove and stabilize all temporary control measures.

Weather and other unpredictable variables may affect construction sequence schedules. However, the proposed schedule and a protocol for making changes due to unforeseen problems should be plainly stated in the ESC plan.

Maintenance

The construction sequence should be followed throughout the project and the written plan should be modified before any changes in construction activities are executed. The plan can be updated if a site inspection indicates the need for additional erosion and sediment control.

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Dust Control

Description

Dust control measures are practices that help reduce surface and air movement of dust from disturbed soil surfaces. Construction sites are good candidates for dust control measures because land disturbance from clearing and excavation generates a large amount of soil disturbance and open space for wind to pick up dust particles. To illustrate this point, limited research at construction sites has established an average dust emission rate of 1.2 tons/acre/month for active construction (WA Dept. of Ecology, 1992). These airborne particles pose a dual threat to the environment and human health. First, dust can be carried off-site,

thereby increasing soil loss from the construction area and increasing the likelihood of sedimentation and water pollution. Second, blowing dust particles can contribute to respiratory health problems and create an inhospitable working environment.

Dust control measures are applicable to any construction site where dust is created and there is the potential for air and water pollution from dust traveling across the landscape or through the air. Dust control measures are particularly important in arid or semiarid regions, where soil can become extremely dry and vulnerable to transport by high winds. Also, dust control measures should be implemented on all construction sites where there will be major soil disturbances or heavy construction activity, such as clearing, excavation, demolition, or excessive vehicle traffic. Earthmoving activities are the major source of dust from construction sites, but traffic and general disturbances can also be major contributors (WA Dept. of Ecology, 1992). The particular dust control measures that are implemented at a site will depend on the topography and land cover of a given site, as well as the soil characteristics and expected rainfall at the site.

Design

When designing a dust control plan for a site, the amount of soil exposed will dictate the quantity of dust generation and transport. Therefore, construction sequencing and disturbing only small areas at a time can greatly reduce problematic dust from a site. If land must be disturbed, additional temporary stabilization measures should be considered prior to disturbance. A number of methods can be used to control dust from a site. The following is a brief list of some control measures and their design criteria. Not all control measures will be applicable to a given site. The owner, operator, and contractors responsible for dust control at a site will have to determine which practices accommodate their needs based on specific site and weather conditions.

- *Sprinkling/Irrigation.* Sprinkling the ground surface with water until it is moist is an effective dust control method for haul roads and other traffic routes (Smolen et al., 1988). This practice can be applied to almost any site.
- *Vegetative Cover.* In areas not expected to handle vehicle traffic, vegetative stabilization of disturbed soil is often desirable. Vegetative cover provides coverage to surface soils and slows wind velocity at the ground surface, thus reducing the potential for dust to become airborne.
- *Mulch.* Mulching can be a quick and effective means of dust control for a recently disturbed area (Smolen et al., 1988).
- *Wind Breaks.* Wind breaks are barriers (either natural or constructed) that reduce wind velocity through a site and therefore reduce the possibility of suspended particles. Wind breaks can be trees or shrubs left in place during site clearing or constructed barriers such as a wind fence, snow fence, tarp curtain, hay bale, crate wall, or sediment wall (USEPA, 1992).
- *Tillage.* Deep tillage in large open areas brings soil clods to the surface where they rest on top of dust, preventing it from becoming airborne.
- *Stone.* Stone may be an effective dust deterrent for construction roads and entrances or as a mulch in areas where vegetation cannot be established.
- *Spray-on Chemical Soil Treatments (palliatives).* Examples of chemical adhesives include anionic asphalt emulsion, latex emulsion, resin-water emulsions, and calcium chloride. Chemical palliatives should be used only on mineral soils. When considering chemical application to suppress dust, consideration should be taken as to whether the chemical is biodegradable or water-soluble and what effect its

application could have on the surrounding environment, including waterbodies and wildlife.

Table 1 shows application rates for some common spray-on adhesives, as recommended by Smolen et al. (1988).

Spray-on Adhesive	Water Dilution	Type of Nozzle	Application (gal/ac)
Anionic Asphalt Emulsion	7:1	Coarse Spray	1,200
Latex Emulsion	12.5:1	Fine Spray	235
Resin in Water	4:1	Fine Spray	300

In areas where evaporation rates are high, water application to exposed soils may require near constant attention. If water is applied in excess, irrigation may create unwanted excess runoff from the site and possibly create conditions where vehicles could track mud onto public roads. Chemical applications should be used sparingly and only on mineral soils (not muck soils) because their misuse can create additional surface water pollution from runoff or contaminate ground water. Chemical applications might also present a health risk if excessive amounts are used.

Maintenance Considerations

Because dust controls are dependent on specific site and weather conditions, inspection and maintenance are unique for each site. Generally, however, dust control measures involving application of either water or chemicals require more monitoring than structural or vegetative controls to remain effective. If structural controls are used, they should be inspected for deterioration on a regular basis to ensure that they are still achieving their intended purpose.

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Temporary Diversion Dikes, Earth Dikes, & Interceptor Dikes

Description

Earthen perimeter controls usually consist of a dike or a combination dike and channel constructed along the perimeter of a disturbed site. Simply defined, an earthen perimeter control is a ridge of compacted soil, often accompanied by a ditch or swale with a vegetated lining, located at the top or base of a sloping disturbed area. Depending on their location and the topography of the landscape, earthen perimeter controls can achieve one of two main goals.

Located on the upslope side of a site, earthen perimeter controls help to prevent surface runoff from entering a disturbed construction site. An earthen structure located upslope can improve working conditions on a construction site by preventing an increase in the total amount of sheet flow runoff traveling across the disturbed area and thereby lessen erosion on the site.

Alternatively, earthen perimeter control structures can be located on the downslope side of a site to divert sediment-laden runoff created onsite to onsite sediment trapping devices, preventing soil loss from the disturbed area.

These control practices can be referred to by a number of terms, including temporary diversion dikes, earth dikes, or interceptor dikes. Generally speaking, however, all earthen perimeter controls are constructed in a similar fashion with a similar objective—to control the velocity and/or route of sediment-laden storm water runoff.

Temporary diversion dikes are applicable where it is desirable to divert flows away from disturbed areas such as cut or fill slopes and to divert runoff to a stabilized outlet (EPA, 1992). The dikes can be erected at the top of a sloping area or in the middle of a slope to divert storm water runoff around a disturbed construction site. In this way, earth dikes can be used to reduce the length of the slope across which runoff will travel, thereby reducing the erosion potential of the flow. If placed at the bottom of a sloping disturbed area, diversion dikes can divert flow to a sediment trapping device. Temporary diversion dikes are usually appropriate for drainage basins smaller than 5 acres, but with modifications they can be capable of servicing areas as large as 10 acres. With regular maintenance, earthen diversion dikes have a useful life span of approximately 18 months.

To prevent storm water runoff from entering a site, earthen perimeter controls can be used to divert runoff from areas upslope around the disturbed construction site. This is accomplished by constructing a continuous, compacted earthen mound along the upslope perimeter of the site. As an additional control measure, a shallow ditch can accompany the earthen mound.

Design

The siting of earthen perimeter controls depends on the topography of the area surrounding a specific construction site and on whether the goal is to prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering the site or to keep storm water runoff from leaving the site. When determining the

appropriate size and design of earthen perimeter controls, the shape of the surrounding landscape and drainage patterns should be considered. Also, the amount of runoff to be diverted, the velocity of runoff in the diversion, and the erodibility of soils on the slope and within the diversion channel or swale are essential design considerations (WSDE, 1992).

Diversion dikes should be constructed and fully stabilized prior to commencement of major land disturbance. This will maximize the effectiveness of the diversion measure as an erosion and sediment control device.

The top of earthen perimeter controls designed as temporary flow diversion measures should be at least 2 feet wide. Bottom width at ground level is typically 6 feet. The minimum height for earthen dikes should be 18 inches, with side slopes no steeper than 2:1. For points where vehicles will cross the dike, the slope should be no steeper than 3:1 and the mound should be constructed of gravel rather than soil. This will prolong the life of the dike and increase effectiveness at the point of vehicle crossing.

If a channel is excavated along the dike, its shape can be parabolic, trapezoidal, or Vshaped. Prior to excavation or mound building, all trees, brush, stumps and other objects in the path of the diversion structure should be removed and the base of the dike should be tilled before laying the fill. The maximum design flow velocity should range from 1.5 to 5.0 feet per second, depending on the vegetative cover and soil texture.

Most earthen perimeter structures are designed for short-term, temporary use. If the expected life span of the diversion structure is greater than 15 days, it is strongly recommended that both the earthen dike and the accompanying ditch be seeded with vegetation immediately after construction. This will increase the stability of the perimeter control and can decrease the need for frequent repairs and maintenance.

Earth dikes are an effective means of diverting sediment-laden storm water runoff around a disturbed area. However, the concentrated runoff in the channel or ditch has increased erosion potential. To alleviate this erosion capability, diversion dikes must be directed to sediment trapping devices, where erosion sediment can settle out of the runoff before being discharged to surface waters. Examples of appropriate sediment trapping devices that might be used in conjunction with temporary diversion structures include a sediment basin, a sediment chamber/filter, or any other structure designed to allow sediment to be collected for proper disposal.

If a diversion dike crosses a vehicle roadway or entrance, its effectiveness can be reduced. Wherever possible, diversion dikes should be designed to avoid crossing vehicle pathways.

Maintenance

Earthen diversion dikes should be inspected after each rainfall to ensure continued effectiveness. The dike should be maintained at the original height, and any decrease in height due to settling or erosion should be repaired immediately. To remain effective, earth dikes must be compacted at all times. Regardless of rainfall frequency, dikes should be inspected at least once every 2 weeks for evidence of erosion or deterioration.

When properly placed and maintained, earth dikes used as temporary diversions are effective for controlling the velocity and direction of storm water runoff. Used by themselves, they do not have any pollutant removal capability. Diversion dikes must be used in combination with an appropriate sediment trapping device at the outfall of the diversion channel.

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Silt Fence

Description

Silt fences are used as temporary perimeter controls around sites where there will be soil disturbance due to construction activities. They consist of a length of filter fabric stretched between anchoring posts spaced at regular intervals along the site perimeter. The filter fabric should be entrenched in the ground between the support posts. When installed correctly and inspected frequently, silt fences can be an effective barrier to sediment leaving the site in storm water runoff.

Silt fences are generally applicable to construction sites with relatively small drainage areas. They are appropriate in areas where runoff will be occurring as low-level shallow flow, not exceeding 0.5 cfs. The drainage area for silt fences generally should not exceed 0.25 acre per 100-foot fence length. Slope length above the fence should not exceed 100 feet (NAHB, 1995).

Design

Material for silt fences should be a pervious sheet of synthetic fabric such as polypropylene, nylon, polyester, or polyethylene yarn, chosen based on minimum synthetic fabric requirements, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Minimum requirements for silt fence construction (Sources: USEPA, 1992; VDCR, 1995)

Physical Property	Requirements
Filtering Efficiency	75 - 85% (minimum): highly dependent on local conditions
Tensile Strength at 20% (maximum) Elongation	Standard Strength: 30 lbs/linear inch (minimum) Extra Strength: 50 lbs/linear inch (minimum)
Ultraviolet Radiation	90% (minimum)
Slurry Flow Rate	0.3 gal/ft ² /min (minimum)

If a standard strength fabric is used, it can be reinforced with wire mesh behind the filter fabric. This can increase the effective life of the fence. In any case, the maximum life expectancy for synthetic fabric silt fences is approximately 6 months, depending on the amount of rainfall and runoff for a given area. Burlap fences have a much shorter useful life span, usually only up to 2 months.

Stakes used to anchor the filter fabric should be either wooden or metal. Wooden stakes should be at least 5 feet long and have a minimum diameter of 2 inches if a hardwood such as oak is used. Softer woods such as pine should be at least 4 inches in diameter. When using metal post in place of wooden stakes, they should have a minimum weight of 1.00 to 1.33 lb/linear foot. If metal posts are used, attachment points are needed for fastening the filter fabric using wire ties.

A silt fence should be erected in a continuous fashion from a single roll of fabric to eliminate unwanted gaps in the fence. If a continuous roll of fabric is not available, the fabric should overlap from both directions only at stakes or posts with a minimum overlap of 6 inches. A trench should be excavated to bury the bottom of the fabric fence at least 6 inches below the ground surface. This will help prevent gaps from forming near the ground surface that would render the fencing useless as a sediment barrier.

The height of the fence posts should be between 16 and 34 inches above the original ground surface. If standard strength fabric is used in combination with wire mesh, the posts should be spaced no more than 10 feet apart. If extra-strength fabric is used without wire mesh reinforcement, the support posts should be spaced no more than 6 feet apart (VDCR, 1995).

The fence should be designed to withstand the runoff from a 10-year peak storm event, and once installed should remain in place until all areas up-slope have been permanently stabilized by vegetation or other means.

Silt fences should not be installed along areas where rocks or other hard surfaces will prevent uniform anchoring of fence posts and entrenching of the filter fabric. This will greatly reduce the effectiveness of silt fencing and can create runoff channels leading off site. Silt fences are not suitable for areas where large amounts of concentrated runoff are likely. In addition, open areas where wind velocity is high may present a maintenance challenge, as high winds may accelerate deterioration of the filter fabric. Silt fences should not be installed across streams, ditches, or waterways (Smolen et al., 1988).

When the pores of the fence fabric become clogged with sediment, pools of water are likely to form on the uphill side of fence. Siting and design of the silt fence should account for this and

care should be taken to avoid unnecessary diversion of storm water from these pools that might cause further erosion damage.

Maintenance

Silt fences should be inspected regularly and frequently as well as after each rainfall event to ensure that they are intact and that there are no gaps at the fence-ground interface or tears along the length of the fence. If gaps or tears are found, they should be repaired or the fabric should be replaced immediately. Accumulated sediments should be removed from the fence base when the sediment reaches one-third to one-half the height of the fence. Sediment removal should occur more frequently if accumulated sediment is creating noticeable strain on the fabric and there is the possibility of the fence failing from a sudden storm event. When the silt fence is removed, the accumulated sediment also should be removed.

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Sediment Basins and Rock Dams

Description

Sediment basins and rock dams are two ways to capture sediment from storm water runoff before it leaves a construction site. Both structures allow a shallow pool to form in an excavated or natural depression where sediment from storm water runoff can settle. Basin dewatering is achieved either through a single riser and drainage hole leading to a suitable outlet on the downstream side of the embankment or through the gravel of the rock dam. In

both cases, water is released at a substantially slower rate than would be possible without the control structure.

A sediment basin can be constructed by excavation or by erecting an earthen embankment across a low area or drainage swale. The basin can be either a temporary (up to 3 years) structure or a permanent storm water control measure. Sediment basins can be designed to drain completely during dry periods, or they can be constructed so that a shallow, permanent pool of water remains between storm events. However, depending on the size of the basin constructed, the basin may be considered a wet pond and subject to additional regulation.

Rock dams are similar in design to sediment basins with earthen embankments. These damming structures are constructed of rock and gravel and release water from the settling pool gradually through the spaces between the rock aggregate.

Sediment basins are usually used for drainage areas of 5 to 100 acres. They can be temporary or permanent structures. Generally, sediment basins designed to be used for up to 3 years are described as temporary, while those designed for longer service are said to be permanent. Temporary sediment basins can be converted into permanent storm water runoff management ponds, but they must meet all regulatory requirements for wet ponds.

Sediment basins are applicable in drainage areas where it is anticipated that other erosion controls, such as sediment traps, will not be sufficient to prevent off-site transport of sediment. Choosing to construct a sediment basin with either an earthen embankment or a stone/rock dam will depend on the materials available, location of the basin, and desired capacity for storm water runoff and settling of sediments.

Rock dams are suitable where earthen embankments would be difficult to construct or where riprap is readily available. Rock structures are also desirable where the top of the dam structure is to be used as an overflow outlet. These riprap dams are best for drainage areas of less than 50 acres. Earthen damming structures are appropriate where failure of the dam will not result in substantial damage or loss of property or life. If properly constructed, sediment basins with earthen dams can handle storm water runoff from drainage basins as large as 100 acres.

Design

The potential sites for sediment basins should be investigated during the initial site evaluation. Basins should be constructed before any grading takes place within the drainage area. For structures that will be permanent, the design of the basin should be completed by a qualified professional engineer experienced in the design of dams.

Sediment basins with rock dams should be limited to a drainage area of 50 acres. Rock dam height should be limited to 8 feet with a minimum top width of 5 feet. Side slopes for rock dams should be no steeper than 2:1 on the basin side of the structure and 3:1 on the outlet side. The basin side of the rock dam should be covered with fine gravel from top to bottom for a minimum of 1 foot. This will slow the drainage rate from the pool that forms and allow time for sediments to settle. The detention time should be at least 8 hours.

Sediment basins with earthen embankments should be outfitted with a dewatering pipe and riser set just above the sediment removal cutoff level. The riser pipe should be located at the deepest point of the basin and extend no farther than 1 foot below the level of the earthen dam. A water-permeable cover should be placed over the primary dewatering riser pipe to

prevent trash and debris from entering and clogging the spillway. To provide an additional path for water to enter the primary spillway, secondary dewatering holes can be drilled near the base of the riser pipe, provided the holes are protected with gravel to prevent sediment from entering the spillway piping.

To ensure adequate drainage, the following equation can be used to approximate the total area of dewatering holes for a particular basin (Smolen et al., 1988):

$$A_o = (A_s \times (2h)) / (T \times C_d \times 20,428)$$

where

A_o = total surface area of dewatering holes, ft²;

A_s = surface area of the basin, ft²;

h = head of water above the hole, ft;

C_d = coefficient of contraction for an orifice, approximately 0.6; and

T = detention time or time needed to dewater the basin, hours.

In all cases, such structures should be designed by an appropriate professional based on local hydrologic, hydraulic, topographic, and sediment conditions.

Neither a sediment basin with an earthen embankment nor a rock dam should be used in areas of continuously running water (live streams). The use of sediment basins is not intended for areas where failure of the earthen or rock dam will result in loss of life, or damage to homes or other buildings. In addition, sediment basins should not be used in areas where failure will prevent the use of public roads or utilities.

Maintenance

Routine inspection and maintenance of sediment basins is essential to their continued effectiveness. Basins should be inspected after each storm event to ensure proper drainage from the collection pool to determine the need for structural repairs. Erosion from the earthen embankment or stones moved from rock dams should be replaced immediately. Sediment basins must be located in an area that is easily accessible to maintenance crews for removal of accumulated sediment. Sediment should be removed from the basin when its storage capacity has reached approximately 50 percent. Trash and debris from around dewatering devices should be removed promptly after rainfall events.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness of a sediment basin depends primarily on the sediment particle size and the ratio of basin surface area to inflow rate (Smolen et al., 1988). Basins with a large surface area-to-volume ratio will be most effective. Studies have shown that the following equation relating surface area and peak inflow rate gives a trapping efficiency greater than 75 percent for most sediment in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of the Southeastern United States (Barfield and Clar, in Smolen et al., 1988):

$$A = 0.01q$$

where A is the basin surface area in acres and q is the peak inflow rate in cubic feet per second.

USEPA (1993) estimates an average total suspended solids (TSS) removal rate for all sediment basins from 55 percent to 100 percent, with an average effectiveness of 70 percent.

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Sediment Filters and Sediment Chambers

Description

Sediment filters are a class of sediment-trapping devices typically used to remove pollutants, primarily particulates, from storm water runoff. Generally speaking, sediment filters have four basic components: (1) inflow regulation, (2) pretreatment, (3) filter bed, and (4) outflow mechanism. Sediment chambers are merely one component of a sediment filter system.

Inflow regulation refers to the diversion of storm water runoff into the sediment-trapping device. After runoff enters the filter system, it enters a pretreatment sedimentation chamber. This chamber, used as a preliminary settling area for large debris and sediments, usually consists of nothing more than a wet detention basin. As water reaches a predetermined level, it flows over a weir into a filter bed of some filter medium. The filter medium is typically sand, but it can consist of sand, soil, gravel, peat, compost, or a combination of these materials. The purpose of the filter bed is to remove smaller sediments and other pollutants from the storm water as it percolates through the filter medium. Finally, treated flow exits the sediment filter system via an outflow mechanism to return to the storm water conveyance system.

Sediment filter systems can be confined or unconfined, on-line or off-line, and aboveground or belowground. Confined sediment filters are constructed with the filter medium contained in a structure, often a concrete vault. Unconfined sediment filters are constructed without encasing the filter medium in a confining structure. As one example, sand might be placed on the banks of a permanent wet pond detention system to create an unconfined filter. On-line systems are designed to retain storm water in its original stream channel or storm drain system. Off-line systems are designed to divert storm water.

Applicability

Sediment filters may be a good alternative for smaller construction sites where the use of a wet pond is being considered as a sediment-trapping device. Their applicability is wide ranging, and they can be used in urban areas with large amounts of highly impervious area. Because confined sand filters are man-made soil systems, they can be applied to most development sites and have few constraining factors (MWCOG, 1992). However, for all sediment filter systems, the drainage area to be serviced should be no more than 10 acres.

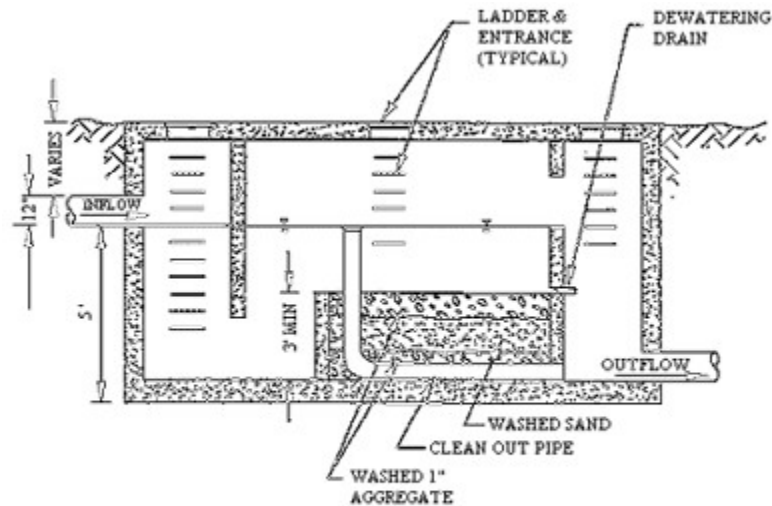


Figure 7.4.2 UNDERGROUND VAULT FILTER
N.T.S.

Schematic representation of a sediment filter

The type of filter system chosen depends on the amount of land available and the desired location within the site. Examples of sediment filter systems include the "Delaware" sand filter and the "Austin" sand filter. The Austin sand filter, so named because it first came into widespread use in Austin, Texas, is a surface filter system that can be used in areas with space restrictions. If space is at a premium, an underground filter may be the most appropriate choice. For effective storm water sediment control at the perimeter of a site, the Delaware sand filter might be a good choice. This configuration consists of two parallel, trench-like chambers installed at a site's perimeter. The first trench (sediment chamber) provides pretreatment sediment settling before the runoff spills into the second trench (filter medium).

Design

Available space is likely to be the most important siting and design consideration when choosing an appropriate sediment-filtering system. As mentioned previously, the decision as to which configuration is implemented on a particular site is dependent on the amount of space on a site. Another important consideration when deciding to install sediment-filtering systems is the amount of available head. Head refers to the vertical distance available between the inflow of the filter system and the outflow point. Because most filtering systems depend on gravity as the driving force to move water through the system, if a certain amount of head is not available, the system will not be effective and might cause more harm than good. For surface and underground sand filters, a minimum head of 5 feet is suggested

(Claytor and Schueler, 1996). Perimeter sand filters such as the two-chambered Delaware sand filter should have a minimum available head of 2 to 3 feet (Claytor and Schueler, 1996).

The depth of filter media will vary depending on media type, but for sand filters it is recommended that the sand (0.04-inch diameter or smaller) be at least 18 inches deep, with a minimum of 4 to 6 inches of gravel for the bed of the filter. Throughout the life of a sediment filter system, there will be a need for frequent access to assess continued effectiveness and perform routine maintenance and emergency repairs. Because most maintenance of sediment filters requires manual rather than mechanical removal of sediments and debris, filter systems should be located to allow easy access.

Sediment filters are usually limited to the removal of pollutants from storm water runoff. They must be used in combination with other storm water management practices to provide flood protection. Sediment filters should not be used on fill sites or near steep slopes (Livingston, 1997). In addition, sediment filters are likely to lose effectiveness in cold regions because of freezing conditions.

Maintenance Considerations

Maintenance of storm water sediment filters can be relatively high compared to other sediment-trapping devices. Routine maintenance includes raking the filter medium and removal of surface sediment and trash. These maintenance chores will likely need to be accomplished by manual labor rather than mechanical means. Depending on the medium used in the structure, the filter material may have to be changed or replaced up to several times a year. This will depend, among other things, on rainfall intensity and the expected sediment load.

Sediment filters of all media types should be inspected monthly and after each significant rainfall event to ensure proper filtration. Trash and debris removal should be removed during inspections. Sediment should be removed from filter inlets and sediment chambers when 75 percent of the storage volume has been filled. Because filter media have the potential for high loadings of metals and petroleum hydrocarbons, the filter medium should be periodically analyzed to prevent it from reaching levels that would classify it as a hazardous waste. This is especially true on sites where solvents or other potentially hazardous chemicals will be used. Spill prevention measures should be implemented as necessary. The top 3 to 4 inches of the filter medium should be replaced on an annual basis, or more frequently if drawdown does not occur within 36 hours of a storm event.

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Sediment Trap

Description

Sediment traps are small impoundments that allow sediment to settle out of runoff water. They are usually installed in a drainageway or other point of discharge from a disturbed area. Temporary diversions can be used to direct runoff to the sediment trap (USEPA, 1993). Sediment traps are used to detain sediments in storm water runoff and trap the sediment to protect receiving streams, lakes, drainage systems, and the surrounding area.

Sediment traps are formed by excavating an area or by placing an earthen embankment across a low area or drainage swale. An outlet or spillway is often constructed using large stones or aggregate to slow the release of runoff (USEPA, 1992).

Sediment traps are generally temporary control measures to slow concentrated runoff velocity and catch sediment, and they can be used with other temporary storm water control measures. They are commonly used at the outlets of storm water diversion structures, channels, slope drains, construction site entrance wash racks, or any other runoff conveyance that discharges waters containing erosion sediment and debris. Sediment traps can also be used as part of a storm water drop intake protection system when the inlet is located below a disturbed area and will receive runoff with large amounts of sediment.

Design

Sediment traps can simplify the storm water control plan design process by trapping sediment at specific spots at a construction site (USEPA, 1992). Therefore, they should be installed as early in the construction process as possible. Natural drainage patterns should be noted, and sites where runoff from potential erosion can be directed into the traps should be selected. Sediment traps should not be located in areas where their failure due to storm water runoff excess can lead to further erosive damage of the landscape. Alternative diversion pathways should be designed to accommodate these potential overflows.

A sediment trap should be designed to maximize surface area for infiltration and sediment settling. This will increase the effectiveness of the trap and decrease the likelihood of backup during and after periods of high runoff intensity. Although site conditions will dictate specific design criteria, the approximate storage capacity of each trap should be at least 1,800 ft³ per acre of total drainage area (Smolen et al., 1988). The volume of a natural sedimentation trap can be approximated by the following equation (Smolen et al., 1988):

$$\text{Volume (ft}^3\text{)} = 0.4 \times \text{surface area (ft}^2\text{)} \times \text{maximum pool depth (ft)}$$

Care should be taken in the siting and design phase to situate sediment traps for easy access by maintenance crews. This will allow for proper inspection and maintenance on a periodic basis. When excavating an area for sediment trap implementation, side slopes should not be steeper than 2:1 and embankment height should not exceed 5 feet from the original ground surface. All embankments should be machine compacted to ensure stability. To reduce flow rate from the trap, the outlet should be lined with well-graded stone.

The spillway weir for each temporary sediment trap should be at least 4 feet long for a 1-acre drainage area and increase by 2 feet for each additional drainage acre added, up to a maximum drainage area of 5 acres.

Sediment traps should not be used for drainage areas greater than 5 acres (USEPA, 1993). The effective life span of these temporary structures is usually limited to 24 months (Smolen et al., 1988). Although sediment traps allow for settling of eroded soils, because of their short detention periods for storm water they typically do not remove fine particles such as silts and clays.

Maintenance

The primary maintenance consideration for temporary sediment traps is the removal of accumulated sediment from the basin. This must be done periodically to ensure the continued effectiveness of the sediment trap. Sediments should be removed when the basin reaches approximately 50 percent sediment capacity. A sediment trap should be inspected after each rainfall event to ensure that the trap is draining properly. Inspectors should also check the structure for damage from erosion. The depth of the spillway should be checked and maintained at a minimum of 1.5 feet below the low point of the trap embankment.

Sediment trapping efficiency is a function of surface area, inflow rate, and the sediment properties (Smolen et al., 1988). Those traps that provide pools with large length-to-width ratios have a greater chance of success. Sediment traps have a useful life of approximately 18 to 24 months (USEPA, 1993), although ultimately effectiveness depends on the amount and intensity of rainfall and erosion, and proper maintenance. USEPA (1993) estimates an average total suspended solids removal rate of 60 percent. An efficiency rate of 75 percent can be obtained for most Coastal Plain and Piedmont soils by using the following equation (Barfield and Clar, in Smolen et al., 1988):

$$\text{Surface area at design flow (acres)} = (0.01) \text{ peak inflow rate (cfs)}$$

References

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Storm Drain Inlet Protection

Description

Storm drain inlet protection measures are controls that help prevent soil and debris from site erosion from entering storm drain drop inlets. Typically, these measures are temporary controls that are implemented prior to large-scale disturbance of the surrounding site. These

controls are advantageous because their implementation allows storm drains to be used during even the early stages of construction activities. The early use of storm drains during project development significantly reduces the occurrence of future erosion problems (Smolen et al., 1988).

Three temporary control measures to protect storm drain drop inlets are

1. Excavation around the perimeter of the drop inlet
2. Fabric barriers around inlet entrances
3. Block and gravel protection.

Excavation around a storm drain inlet creates a settling pool to remove sediments. Weep holes protected by gravel are used to drain the shallow pool of water that accumulates around the inlet. A fabric barrier made of porous material erected around an inlet can create an effective shield to erosion sediment while allowing water flow into the storm drain. This type of barrier can slow runoff velocity while catching soil and other debris at the drain inlet. Block and gravel inlet protection uses standard concrete blocks and gravel to form a barrier to sediments while permitting water runoff through select blocks laid sideways.

In addition to the materials listed above, limited temporary storm water drop inlet protection can also be achieved with the use of straw bales or sandbags to create barriers to sediment. For permanent storm drain drop inlet protection after the surrounding area has been stabilized, sod can be installed as a barrier to slow storm water entry to storm drain inlets and capture erosion sediments. This final inlet protection measure can be used as an aesthetically pleasing way to slow storm water velocity near drop inlet entrances and to remove sediments and other pollutants from runoff.

All temporary controls should have a drainage area no greater than 1 acre per inlet. It is also important for temporary controls to be constructed prior to disturbance of the surrounding landscape. Excavated drop inlet protection and block and gravel inlet protection are applicable to areas of high flow where overflow is anticipated into the storm drain. Fabric barriers are recommended for smaller, relatively flat drainage areas (slopes less than 5 percent leading to the storm drain). Temporary drop inlet control measures are often used in combination with each other and other storm water control techniques.

Design

With the exception of sod drop inlet protection, these controls should be installed before any soil disturbance in the drainage area. Excavation around drop inlets should be dug a minimum of 1-foot deep (2 feet maximum) with a minimum excavated volume of 35 yd³ per acre disturbed. Side slopes leading to the inlet should be no steeper than 2:1. The shape of the excavated area should be designed such that the dimensions fit the area from which storm water is anticipated to drain. For example, the longest side of an excavated area should be along the side of the inlet expected to drain the largest area.

Fabric inlet protection should be staked close to the inlet to prevent overflow on unprotected soils. Stakes should be used with a minimum length of 3 feet, spaced no more than 3 feet apart. A frame should be constructed for fabric support during overflow periods and should be buried at least 1 foot below the soil surface and rise to a height no greater than 1.5 feet above ground. The top of the frame and fabric should be below the down-slope ground elevation to prevent runoff bypassing the inlet.

Block and gravel inlet barrier height should be 1-foot minimum (2 feet maximum), and mortar should not be used. The bottom row of blocks should be laid at least 2 inches below the soil surface flush against the drain for stability. One block in the bottom row should be placed on each side of the inlet on its side to allow drainage. Wire mesh (1/2 inch) should be placed over all block openings to prevent gravel from entering the inlet, and gravel (3/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter) should be placed outside the block structure at a slope no greater than 2:1.

Sod inlet protection should not be considered until the entire surrounding drainage area is stabilized. The sod should be laid so that it extends at least 4 feet from the inlet in each direction to form a continuous mat the around inlet, laying sod strips perpendicular to the direction of flows. The sod strips should be staggered such that strip ends are not aligned, and the slope of the sodded area should not be steeper than 4:1 approaching the drop inlet.

Storm water drop inlet protection measures should not be used as stand-alone sediment control measures. To increase inlet protection effectiveness, these practices should be used in combination with other measures, such as small impoundments or sediment traps (USEPA, 1992). Temporary storm drain inlet protection is not intended for use in drainage areas larger than 1 acre. Generally, storm water inlet protection measures are practical for relatively low-sediment, low-volume flows. Frequent maintenance of storm drain control structures is necessary to prevent clogging. If sediment and other debris clog the water intake, drop intake control measures can cause erosion in unprotected areas.

Maintenance

All temporary control measures must be checked after each storm event. To maintain the sediment capacity of the shallow settling pools created from these techniques, accumulated sediment should be removed from the area around the drop inlet (excavated area, around fabric barrier, or around block structure) when the sediment capacity is reduced by approximately 50 percent. Additional debris should be removed from the shallow pools on a periodic basis. Weep holes in excavated areas around inlets can become clogged and prevent water from draining out of shallow pools that form. Should this happen, unclogging the water intake may be difficult and costly.

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General Construction Site Waste Management

Description

Building materials and other construction site wastes must be properly managed and disposed of to reduce the risk of pollution from materials such as surplus or refuse building materials or hazardous wastes. Practices such as trash disposal, recycling, proper material handling, and spill prevention and cleanup measures can reduce the potential for storm water runoff to mobilize construction site wastes and contaminate surface or ground water.

The proper management and disposal of wastes should be practiced at any construction site to reduce storm water runoff. Waste management practices can be used to properly locate refuse piles, to cover materials that may be displaced by rainfall or storm water runoff, and to prevent spills and leaks from hazardous materials that were improperly stored.

Design

The following steps should be taken to ensure proper storage and disposal of construction site wastes:

- Designate a waste collection area onsite that does not receive a substantial amount of runoff from upland areas and does not drain directly to a waterbody.
- Ensure that containers have lids so they can be covered before periods of rain, and keep containers in a covered area whenever possible.
- Schedule waste collection to prevent the containers from overflowing.
- Clean up spills immediately. For hazardous materials, follow cleanup instructions on the package. Use an absorbent material such as sawdust or kitty litter to contain the spill.
- During the demolition phase of construction, provide extra containers and schedule more frequent pickups.
- Collect, remove, and dispose of all construction site wastes at authorized disposal areas. A local environmental agency can be contacted to identify these disposal sites.

The following steps should be taken to ensure the proper disposal of hazardous materials:

- Local waste management authorities should be consulted about the requirements for disposing of hazardous materials.
- A hazardous waste container should be emptied and cleaned before it is disposed of to prevent leaks.
- The original product label should never be removed from the container as it contains important safety information. Follow the manufacturer's recommended method of disposal, which should be printed on the label.
- If excess products need to be disposed of, they should never be mixed during disposal unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer.

State or local solid waste regulatory agencies or private firms should be consulted to ensure the proper disposal of contaminated soils that have been exposed to and still contain

hazardous substances. Some landfills might accept contaminated soils, but they require laboratory tests first.

Paint and dirt are often removed from surfaces by sandblasting. Sandblasting grits are the byproducts of this procedure and consist of the sand used and the paint and dirt particles that are removed from the surface. These materials are considered hazardous if they are removed from older structures because they are more likely to contain lead-, cadmium-, or chrome-based paints. To ensure proper disposal of sandblasting grits, a licensed waste management or transport and disposal firm should be contracted.

The following practices should be used to reduce risks associated with pesticides or to reduce the amount of pesticides that come in contact with storm water:

- Follow all federal, state, and local regulations that apply to the use, handling, or disposal of pesticides.
- Do not handle the materials any more than necessary.
- Store pesticides in a dry, covered area.
- Construct curbs or dikes to contain pesticides in case of spillage.
- Follow the recommended application rates and methods.
- Have equipment and absorbent materials available in areas where pesticides are stored and used in order to contain and clean up any spills that occur.

The following management practices should be followed to reduce the contamination risk associated with petroleum products:

- Store petroleum products and fuel for vehicles in covered areas with dikes in place to contain any spills.
- Immediately contain and clean up any spills with absorbent materials.
- Have equipment available in fuel storage areas and in vehicles to contain and clean up any spills that occur.

Phosphorous- and nitrogen-containing fertilizers are used on construction sites to provide nutrients necessary for plant growth, and phosphorous- and nitrogen-containing detergents are found in wash water from vehicle cleaning areas. Excesses of these nutrients can be a major source of water pollution. Management practices to reduce risks of nutrient pollution include the following:

- Apply fertilizers at the minimum rate and to the minimum area needed.
- Work the fertilizer deeply into the soil to reduce exposure of nutrients to storm water runoff.
- Apply fertilizer at lower application rates with a higher application frequency.
- Limit hydroseeding, which is the simultaneous application of lime and fertilizers.
- Ensure that erosion and sediment controls are in place to prevent fertilizers and sediments from being transported off-site.
- Use detergents only as recommended, and limit their use onsite. Wash water containing detergents should not be dumped into the storm drain system—it should be directed to a sanitary sewer or be otherwise contained so that it can be treated at a wastewater treatment plant.

An effective waste management system requires training and signage to promote awareness of the hazards of improper storage, handling, and disposal of wastes. The only way to be

sure that waste management practices are being followed is to be aware of worker habits and to inspect storage areas regularly. Extra management time may be required to ensure that all workers are following the proper procedures.

Maintenance

Containers or equipment that may malfunction and cause leaks or spills should be identified through regular inspection of storage and use areas. Equipment and containers should be inspected regularly for leaks, corrosion, support or foundation failure, or any other signs of deterioration and should be tested for soundness. Any found to be defective should be repaired or replaced immediately.

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Spill Prevention and Control Plan

Description

Spill prevention and control plans should clearly state measures to stop the source of a spill, contain the spill, clean up the spill, dispose of contaminated materials, and train personnel to prevent and control future spills.

Spill prevention and control plans are applicable to construction sites where hazardous wastes are stored or used. Hazardous wastes include pesticides, paints, cleaners, petroleum products, fertilizers, and solvents.

Design

Identify potential spill or source areas, such as loading and unloading, storage, and processing areas, places where dust or particulate matter is generated, and areas designated for waste disposal. Also, spill potential should be evaluated for stationary facilities, including manufacturing areas, warehouses, service stations, parking lots, and access roads.

Define material handling procedures and storage requirements, and take actions to reduce spill potential and impacts on storm water quality. This can be achieved by

- Recycling, reclaiming, or reusing process materials and thereby reducing the amount of process materials that are brought into the facility
- Installing leak detection devices, overflow controls, and diversion berms
- Disconnecting any drains from processing areas that lead to the storm sewer

- Performing preventative maintenance on storm tanks, valves, pumps, pipes, and other equipment
- Using material transfer procedures or filling procedures for tanks and other equipment that minimize spills
- Substituting less or non-toxic materials for toxic materials.

Provide documentation of spill response equipment and procedures to be used, ensuring that procedures are clear and concise. Give step-by-step instructions for the response to spills at a particular facility. This spill response plan can be presented as a procedural handbook or a sign. The spill response plan should

- Identify individuals responsible for implementing the plan
- Define safety measures to be taken with each kind of waste
- Specify how to notify appropriate authorities, such as police and fire departments, hospitals, or publicly owned treatment works for assistance
- State procedures for containing, diverting, isolating, and cleaning up the spill
- Describe spill response equipment to be used, including safety and cleanup equipment.

A spill prevention and control plan must be well planned and clearly defined so that the likelihood of accidental spills can be reduced and any spills that do occur can be dealt with quickly and effectively. Training might be necessary to ensure that all workers are knowledgeable enough to follow procedures. Equipment and materials for cleanup must be readily accessible and clearly marked for workers to be able to follow procedures.

Maintenance

Update the spill prevention and control plan to accommodate any changes in the site or procedures. Regularly inspect areas where spills might occur to ensure that procedures are posted and cleanup equipment is readily available.

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Vehicle Maintenance & Washing Areas

Description

Maintenance and washing of vehicles should be conducted using environmentally responsible practices to prevent direct, untreated discharges of nutrient-enriched wastewater or hazardous wastes to surface or ground waters. This involves designating covered, paved areas for maintenance and washing, eliminating improper connections from these areas to the storm drain system, developing a spill prevention and cleanup plan for shop areas, maintaining vehicles and other equipment that may leak hazardous chemicals, covering fuel drums and other materials that are stored outdoors, and properly handling and disposing of automotive wastes and wash water.

Environmentally friendly vehicle maintenance and washing practices are applicable for every construction site to prevent contamination of surface and ground water from wash water and fuel, coolant, or antifreeze spills or leaks.

Design

Construction vehicles should be inspected for leaks daily and repaired immediately. All used products, including oil, antifreeze, solvents, and other automotive-related chemicals, should be disposed of as directed by the manufacturer. These products are hazardous wastes that require special handling and disposal. Used oil, antifreeze, and some solvents can be recycled at a designated facility, but other chemicals must be disposed of at a hazardous waste disposal site. A local environmental agency can help to identify such facilities.

Special paved areas should be designated for a vehicle repair area and a separate vehicle washing area in which runoff and wastewater from these areas is directed to the sanitary sewer system or other treatment facility as industrial process waste. Vehicle washing facilities should use high-pressure water spray without any detergents as water can remove most dirt adequately. If detergents must be used, phosphate- or organic-based cleansers should be avoided to reduce nutrient enrichment and biological oxygen demand in wastewater. Only biodegradable products should be used—they should not contain halogenated solvents. If possible, blowers or vacuums should be used instead of water to remove dry materials from vehicles. Washing areas must be clearly marked and workers should be informed that all washing must occur in this area. No other activities, such as vehicle repairs, should be conducted in the wash area. If vehicles or equipment are heavily greased or soiled, the area should be bermed and covered to prevent contamination of runoff from these pollutants.

Limitations

Limitations for vehicle maintenance areas include the cost of waste disposal (a fee may be charged by a hazardous waste disposal facility), the cost of providing an enclosed maintenance area with proper connections to an industrial sanitary sewer, and extra labor required to follow proper storage, handling, and disposal procedures. Vehicle wash areas might require permits, depending on the volume of wastewater produced and the type of detergents used, and it might be expensive to designate an area for vehicle washing with proper connections to the industrial waste handling system.

Maintenance

Vehicle maintenance areas produce a substantial amount of hazardous waste that requires regular disposal. Spills must be cleaned up and cleanup materials disposed of immediately. Equipment and storage containers should be inspected regularly to identify leaks or signs of deterioration. Maintenance of vehicle wash areas is minimal and involves maintenance of berms and drainage to the sanitary sewer system.

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