

WHAT IS EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL?



Erosion and sediment control is used on building and construction sites to prevent soil, sand and other sediment from being washed off the site and into gutters, stormwater drains and waterways.

Sediment runoff that enters our waterways can have a significant impact on the environment, polluting the water and harming aquatic plants and animals and other wildlife. It can also block stormwater drains and cause overflows and flooding.

Good erosion and sediment control involves careful management of the site before, during and after construction, using a combination of control measures. These controls help to minimise site disturbance and trap sediment before it can wash away. They can also prevent the loss of stockpiles and improve building site conditions generally.

WHY DO I NEED AN EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN?

- You are legally obliged to install erosion and sediment control measures on your site.
- Many councils require you to submit an erosion and sediment control plan before work begins.
- If activity on your site causes a pollution incident, you could receive fines of \$8,000 to \$15,000 for each incident.
- Save money and downtime by having an organised site and preventing costly building supplies from being washed away during wet weather.
- Reduce hazards and improve the health and safety for your workers and the community.
- We all have a role to play in making our waterways clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

GET THE SITE RIGHT

'Get the Site Right' is a joint taskforce of local councils, catchment groups, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning and Environment, which targets erosion and sediment control on commercial and residential building sites across NSW.

We work with developers, builders and the community to raise awareness about the harmful effects of sediment runoff on our creeks, rivers, harbours and beaches, and highlight the important role they play in helping to improve water quality and protect our natural environment and wildlife.

For more information on erosion and sediment control, contact your local council or visit: georgesriver.org.au/get-the-site-right

GET THE SITE RIGHT IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



SEE A SITE THAT'S NOT RIGHT?

Report pollution incidents, including poor erosion and sediment control, to your local council or the EPA's 24/7 Environment Line on 131 555.

IS YOUR SITE RIGHT?

Erosion and sediment control for builders and renovators



BEST PRACTICE EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROLS

For more information on erosion and sediment controls for your site, contact your local council or refer to the 'Blue Book', *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*, Landcom (2004) 4th Ed.



SITE SIGNAGE

Erect a prominent sign on-site showing the name and contact details (including an after hours phone number) of the principal contractor and certifier.



STORMWATER DIVERSION & DOWNPIPES

Divert stormwater to flow around the building site and any disturbed areas. Connect temporary or permanent downpipes from the guttering to the stormwater drain as soon as the roof is installed.



STABILISED SITE ACCESS

Establish a single, stabilised entry/exit point using aggregate or recycled concrete, to reduce sediment tracking off the site. Sweep the footpath and road daily to remove any loose sediment.



SILT FENCING

Install silt fencing correctly, using geotextile material, along the low side of the site before work begins. Place silt fencing behind the construction site fence to prevent hazards and vandalism. Check and repair fencing regularly and remove any accumulated sediment.



SITE VEGETATION

Minimise the area to be cleared and leave as much vegetation on the site as possible. Retain the grass or lay turf strips on the verge to stabilise the area between the kerb and footpath. Revegetate the site as soon as possible after construction is completed.



WASTE RECEPTACLES

Store all hard waste correctly to prevent it from being blown or washed off the site. Discard smaller items such as litter in a bin with a tight-fitting lid or covered litter trap made from geotextile material.



SEDIMENT CONTROL DEVICES

Some councils permit the use of silt socks, fibre logs or straw bales to filter and/or divert sediment runoff away from stormwater drains. Install correctly to prevent obstructions and flooding, check regularly for damage, and remove once construction has finished.



STOCKPILE STORAGE & SILT CONTROL

Store all stockpiles and building materials behind sediment controls, and at least 2 metres (preferably 5 metres) from hazard areas such as driveways, paved areas and waterways. Cover stockpiles in the event of rain and wind, and sweep up any loose sediment daily.



EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Clean all building equipment in a designated area away from stormwater drains. Dispose of excess building materials safely and never sweep, pour or hose them into the gutter or stormwater drain.



Image courtesy of Lake Macquarie City Council.