

*A department policy is based on an interpretation of a code provision  
and is subject to change based on new information.*

## **Erosion Control for Site Development**

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In order to comply with state-mandated requirements for storm water runoff, the following items are required for all residential and commercial site development:

**Erosion control measures** shall be implemented to preserve existing vegetation where possible, and to re-vegetate disturbed open areas after grading and construction. This is necessary to prevent erosion, which is the movement of soil by wind or water.

**Sediment control measures** shall be implemented to prevent the transportation of eroded material from the site. This requirement prevents the deposition of soil and debris sediment in roadways, drainage systems, and natural watercourses.

**FOR PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN OCT. 15 AND MAY 15:**

Sediment control measures shall be in place at all times, maintained regularly, and shall include one or more of the following:

Silt fencing, straw bale dikes, straw wattles, or other approved devices shall be installed adjacent to disturbed areas wherever there is a chance of silt transport. No sediment or muddy water shall leave the construction site. All operational storm drain inlets are effectively protected from sediment inflow.

When runoff is produced from a disturbed area larger than one acre, it shall be routed through an approved detention pond prior to being discharged from the site.

Appropriate materials in quantities sufficient to eliminate the tracking of silt onto the roadway by vehicles shall be placed at all access points to the construction site and maintained at all times.

Cleaning up spillage by washing mud into a drainage system is not permitted.

Construction materials are properly stored (covered when not in use, secondary containment if needed, etc.)

A proper cement/stucco washout containment area is provided and used properly.

Portable toilets are out of the street and way from drainage paths, so that liquids cannot enter the storm drains. Secondary containment may be provided.

Erosion control measures shall be implemented as-soon-as-possible to protect disturbed areas. These measures shall include one or more of the following:

Man-made slopes shall be covered with a properly anchored 2-inch (minimum) blanket of straw, or approved equal.

At the top of man-made slopes, grading shall be done in such a way as to insure that no runoff goes over the face of the slope. This may require a swale, interceptor ditch, earthen berm, or combinations thereof, terminating at an approved location.

Ditches or swales steeper than 10% shall be cobble-lined, or protected with an approved alternate material.

**Sites where one acre or more of ground is disturbed are required by State law to obtain a construction storm water permit from the Regional Water Quality Board. A copy of the state storm water permit is required at submittal of a county grading permit.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN A STOP WORK NOTICE BEING ISSUED FOR ALL WORK ON SITE. CONTINUED NON-COMPLIANCE WILL RESULT IN RECOURSE TO ALL REMEDIES PROVIDED BY LAW, AND NOTIFICATION TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES OF THE VIOLATION(S). (Having measures in place does not excuse a violation if sedimentation continues.)**

**FOR PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN MAY 15 AND OCT. 15:**

Sediment control measures shall be utilized whenever a 3-day forecast of rain is made by the National Weather Service any time during the year.

**Permanent erosion control** measures must be in place prior to final approval of the permitted structure. This shall include one or more of the following:

Man-made slopes shall be hand- or hydro-seeded and covered with properly-anchored straw mulch, or be planted with permanent ground cover.

Ditches or swales steeper than 10% shall be cobble-lined, or protected with an approved alternate material.

All disturbed areas, not otherwise protected, shall have a minimum cover of 2 inches of properly-anchored straw. Rice straw is recommended, as it does not contain unwanted contaminating seeds.

Completion of an underground drain system, where required, such as solid piping connected to gutter downspouts or drain inlets.

**Between May 15 and October 1**, a cash bond may be posted in lieu of performing the permanent erosion control measures in order to obtain final approval of the permitted structure. The bond must be 150% of the estimated cost of the landscaping work. **However, the bond will expire on October 1, and all erosion control work must be in place by October 15 to avoid penalties.**