

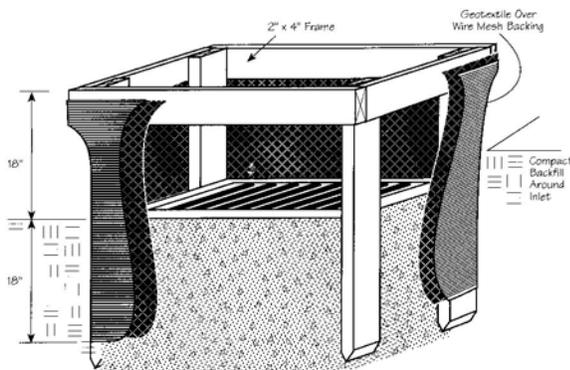


Why Erosion Control?

Sediment, the product of erosion is the largest pollutant in our state's streams. Once eroded soil enters even a small flow of water, it is carried long distances in ditches, storm sewers and streams.

Erosion damages water quality by raising water temperatures, reducing sunlight, clogging the gills of animals, lowering oxygen levels, covering food sources, eliminating habitat, and transporting oil, fertilizers, metals, chemicals and other pollutants.

Yard Inlet Control



This wood framed, wire and fabric structure can be easily made, and used to keep sediment from washing into the storm sewer inlet. After grass is growing in the yard, the structure can be removed.

are dredged from clogged harbors at public expense. How we build can limit erosion.

What Can I Do?

- Don't build on steep slopes
- Don't strip vegetation unless it is necessary
- Mulch or seed bare ground as soon as possible
- Keep your soil out of the street
- Make heavy equipment use the driveway during construction
- Keep your soil out of the storm sewers
- Keep your soil out of ditches and small channels
- Get grass growing quickly
- Know if there are wetlands on your lot
- Obtain the proper permits

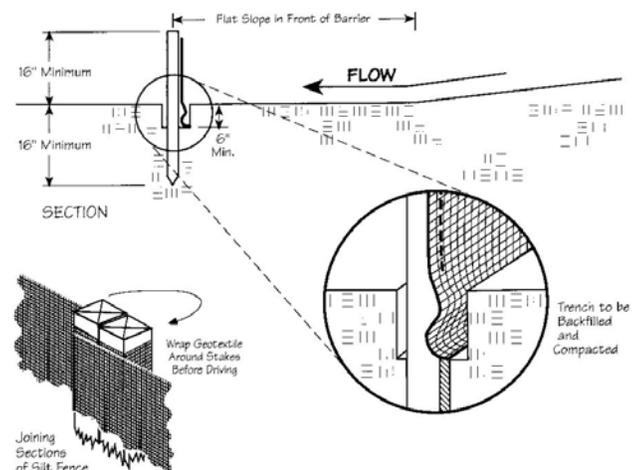
Silt Fence

Silt fence is used to filter sediments from storm water. Unfortunately, it is often installed poorly. As illustrated below, **it must be trenched to be effective.** Silt fence should be placed below broad areas of bare soil. Silt fence should be located on the contour, neither rising or falling in elevation so that a flow of water is not created along the silt fence. The fabric is designed to slow water flow and create shallow ponds behind the silt fence that allows sediment to settle. Silt fence is not effective when placed across ditches or stream channels. Placing silt fence along the lower property line to keep sediment from washing into the street or onto a neighboring property is a good use for silt fencing.

Erosion Hurts Us & Our Community

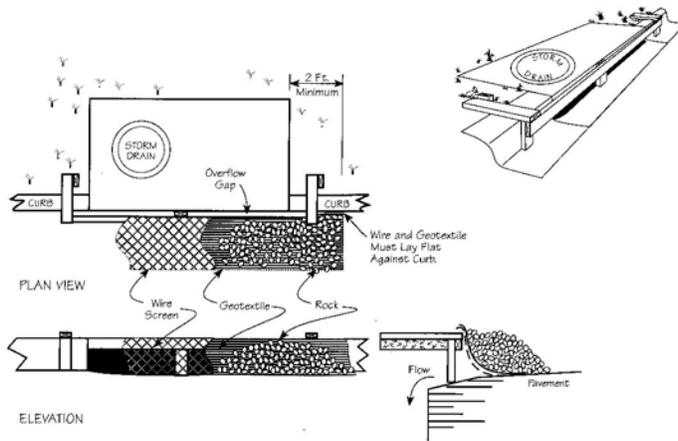
A single acre under construction can lose 1 1/2 dump truck loads of soil to erosion. No one would dream of dumping that much soil onto their neighbor or into a stream, yet building a home can do the same thing. Landscaping costs increase as fertile topsoil is washed away. Erosion has also washed away foundations, putting homes at risk of collapse.

Eroded material can clog storm sewers. This increases maintenance costs for the community. Sediment deposits block streams, cause flooding and contribute to increased stream bank erosion. Finally, each year tons of sediment



Take Precautions – Plan and Implement

It is not difficult to predict where soil will erode. The slightest down hill slope will let water flow, and any flow over bare ground will create erosion. The goal is to keep all the soil on your own property. Plan ahead for erosion control. The appropriate use of the illustrated practices and techniques will control erosion in many situations. Call the Soil & Water Conservation District for planning assistance.



Curb Inlet Control

Any eroded soil entering a storm sewer inlet is piped directly to a receiving stream. Blocking the inlet enough to allow some ponding of water to occur will allow sediment to settle in the street where it can later be scraped up. The design at left allows storm water to go over the top of the barrier to limit the area of flooding. To work properly, some temporary flooding of the street is necessary. Because of the flooding, some municipalities do not allow the use of this practice. In these areas, extra care should be taken to keep sediment off the street so it can not enter the storm sewer system. Large quantities of mud and soil are tracked onto the road from construction traffic. Limiting access to the drive way can greatly help limit soil in the street.

Seeding – The Ultimate Solution

A good grass cover provides the ultimate solution to erosion. Therefore, the goal should be to establish a seeding or at least apply temporary cover as soon as the earth moving stops. The good news is that some form of cover can be applied at any time of the year.

- The best times of the year to plant a permanent grass cover are from **March 1 to May 31** and from **August 1 to September 30**. Grass can also be planted during June and July, but will need additional watering.
- Seedings should not be planted from October 1 through November 30. During this period the seeds are likely to germinate but may not survive the winter. During this time however, the seedbed could be prepared, limed, fertilized and properly mulched. After November 20, seeding rates can be increased by 50% and the seed applied. By late November it is usually cold enough that the seed will not germinate until spring. But, in spring, the grass will be well established by the time we usually think about doing yard work.
- **Mulch is Important!** Mulch is important to help get a seeding started. It provides temporary erosion control to hold the soil and seed in place until the grass can grow. It also helps keep the growing area moist and protects the seedlings in other ways as well. The mulch cover is adequate when the bare ground is no longer visible.
- Mulch alone will greatly reduce the erosion on a site and should be applied and maintained until a permanent seeding can be made.

Other Practices & Techniques

Grass filter strip
 Forested buffer strip
 Level spreader
 Streambank stabilization
 Sediment trap
 Check dam
 Slope drain
 Matting
 Construction entrance

See your SWCD for more information
 from the Rainwater & Land Development
 Manual

Your Soil & Water Conservation District Can:

Provide soil descriptions of your lot and describe problems you may encounter on your site.

Advise on drainage, erosion, streambank, habitat and land management problems.

Provide soil maps, topographic maps, wetlands maps, aerial photographs and more.