



Young Shire Council

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PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & STRATEGIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FACT SHEET 9

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

Young Shire is a beautiful place to live and we all want to do our best to protect the environment and prevent the pollution of the stormwater and our natural waterways. Getting Sediment and Erosion Control measures right can prevent pollution, reduce erosion and save money.

All developers and builders have a legal obligation to take all reasonable care to prevent soil and sediment loss from building and construction sites. Builders and site supervisors are also responsible for the actions of any sub-contractors working on the site.

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)*, Council has the authority to monitor building and construction sites and ensure that these measures are in place.

It is important to note that the pollution of stormwater is an offence, and the POEO Act enables Council to issue Clean Up and Prevention Notices and fines.

SEDIMENTATION CONTROL - WHAT IS IT?

Erosion and sedimentation control measures are used to prevent soil and building materials, such as sand, cement, slurry and paint, from leaving the site. They also decrease the flow of stormwater from the site.

BEFORE BUILDING COMMENCES

- Prepare a Sediment Control Plan (also known as a Soil & Management Plan). This may be required by Council prior to issuing a construction certificate and should outline the control measures to be used on a specific site throughout the life of the development.
- Try to prevent erosion on site by limiting the amount of site disturbed at any one time, leaving shrubs and grass in place in possible, and stockpiling only small amounts of sand & soil on site.

The sediment controls need to be in place prior to the commencement of building works, and will need to be altered as construction occurs and the drainage patterns change.

A staff member from the Planning, Environment and Strategic Services Department is available for consultation at the Customer Service area between 8.30am and 11am weekdays. At other times Staff are available via phone or by appointment (02) 6380 1203.

SEDIMENT CONTROLS

These controls may include sedimentation fencing, straw bales, grass/vegetation strips and sedimentation traps/basins.

Sediment Fence	Constructed by heavy duty geo fabric designed specifically designed to allow the free passage of water and trap sediment. The most widely used strategy.
Grass Strip Filters	A simple method of trapping coarse sediment suitable for low grades. A strip undisturbed vegetation or grass planted down slope from earthworks - the flatter and wider the strips are, the more effective they become.
Straw Bale Filters	Suitable for low flows only. At least 4 Straw bales tightly abutted together and partially buried into the ground. Filter fabric can be placed in front of them adding to the sediment filtration. Straw bales deteriorate and can end up polluting waterways—they should be inspected regularly.
Sedimentation Traps/Ponds	Basins designed to capture a concentrated sediment laden flow and store it enabling the silt to deposit at the bottom of the trap. Placement of filter fabric along the uphill face of the embankment may improve effectiveness.

DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Limit access to the site to one stabilised entry/exit point,
- Protect topsoil stockpiles with sediment fencing,
- Store all building materials within the sediment fence envelope,
- Install downpipes immediately following the completion of the roof, and
- Revegetate the site as soon as possible.

MAINTENANCE OF SEDIMENT CONTROLS

Sediment controls need to be maintained to stay effective - built up sediment will need to be removed, and controls may need to be replaced, or altered as drainage patterns on the site change.

If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the Council so that they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment

If landscaping is not completed prior to handover new owners should be made aware of their responsibility to prevent pollution from entering the stormwater system.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information and advice on Soil & Sedimentation Controls, or how to develop Sediment Control Plans please contact Council or visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/builders_erosion.htm

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