



Taking Action to Control Sediment

Simple Solutions to Protect the Health of Perth's Waterways

Pollutants such as soil, sand and cement can be blown or washed away from building and construction sites. Appropriate erosion controls should be used on road work sites and residential, commercial and industrial developments. When appropriate erosion controls are not used, soil, sand and cement travels through the stormwater drainage system and can pollute local parks and sensitive environments such as rivers, wetlands and oceans.

The benefits of action on sediment control

Together with builders, residents, Local Government and environmental managers, the Sediment Task Force is working to control sediment to:

- Protect hydrological functions of rivers, wetlands and other waterways;
- Prevent sediment from smothering the reeds, plants and seagrasses that keep our waterways and oceans healthy;
- Protect aquatic invertebrates and benthic algae populations, whose presence is necessary for waterways to remain healthy ecosystems;
- Prevent fish, prawns, crabs and other aquatic wildlife being killed due to the detrimental effects of sediments entering ecosystems;
- Reduce nutrient enrichment of waterways and associated algal blooms;
- Ensure river pools continue to provide a vital refuge for fauna during long hot summers and dry seasons;
- Prevent the creation of breeding grounds for pest and potential disease causing mosquitoes and midges and protect public health from mosquito-borne diseases and pathogens;
- Prevent sediment from covering grass in parks that receive stormwater runoff;
- Help maintain stormwater management systems such as biofilters, pervious paving, infiltration cells and tree pits;
- Reduce the risk of houses and roads flooding as a result of blocked stormwater drains;
- Reduce the risks of accidents on roads and paths; and
- Reduce costs to the building industry, governments and the community for managing stormwater and waterways

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Building Industry can:

- Limit excavation and maintain existing vegetation on building sites;
- Prepare and implement a Site Management Plan or Erosion and Sediment Control Plan;
- Contain all sand and cement on the site (e.g. locate sand stockpiles away from the road/stormwater drains or deliver and store sand in bags; locate cement wash down site away from the road/stormwater drains);
- In situations where run off may occur look to install a sediment control system between the site and the street;
- Clean up any sediment that reaches the street;
- Keep sand deliveries well inside the site and away from the road. If a delivery is on the verge make sure the road is protected with a sediment fence or the sand is delivered in a bag;
- Educate site workers not to wash out wheelbarrows, clean tools, or wash down concrete trucks or pumps adjacent to stormwater drains. Keep the wash down on site;
- Create all-weather gravel/crushed rock access to the site;
- Manage rainfall run-off on site;
- Educate and allocate responsibility for soils getting onto the roads. **Five minutes of sweeping** at the end of each working day will stop sediment getting into drains, and will cost builders and the consumer relatively nothing; and
- Employ a licenced waste service provider to manage waste and to recycle materials.

Government Agencies constructing public works, such as roads and railways and water management infrastructure can:

- Develop and implement policies, guidelines and procedures for erosion and sediment control;
- Conduct training for operational staff and contractors for effective erosion and sediment control;
- Prepare and implement a Site Management Plan or Erosion and Sediment Control Plan;
- Manage public works sites to ensure best practice sediment control;
- Audit compliance with policies, guidelines and procedures; and
- Prepare guidelines for preventing mosquito breeding associated with construction practices near wetlands, marshlands and other waterways.

Residents can:

- Remember that the drain is just for rain;
- Avoid littering (including covering trailer loads), reduce fertiliser use and prevent gardening waste and lawn clippings from entering roads;
- Sweep or blow (via blower-vacs) sediment and lawn clippings back onto the verge or garden, or dispose of collected sediment and lawn clippings into a bin or composting device;
- Prevent soil erosion on your property, for example, retain soil cover by mulching and covering exposed soil;
- Plant native vegetation along waterways;
- Report sediment loss or incidents to your Local Government and dispose of waste materials according to your Local Government's instructions;
- Choose builders that have a suitable Sediment Management Plan/Waste Management Plan; and
- Seek property management advice from your Local Government and/or landcare centre.

Be Part of the Solution

Do the right thing by our rivers and comply with environmental regulations.
Everyone has a role to play

Local Governments can:

- Issue sediment control advice with building approvals;
- Include sediment control in compliance action;
- Include planning approval conditions or advice notes requiring developers and builders to control, mitigate and regularly sweep sediment drifts;
- Manage public works to ensure best practice sediment control; and
- Enact local laws to provide for enforcement methods.