

Builder's on-site checklist for preventing sediment loss

Developed by the Sediment Task Force as a guide for West Australian builders, building sub-contractors, building site supervisors, tradespersons working on building sites and building project managers.

Use this checklist when arriving at and leaving your site, for regular checks of all other sites and vacant blocks you are responsible for, and before and after a rain, wind or storm event.

Job No.:

Site No.:

Report completed by (name, job title and contact details):

Site address and date and time of inspection:

Reason for site assessment: (e.g. scheduled or random check, site visit following a rain, wind or storm event, response to a complaint, warning or infringement notice):
.....

Assess your site and action the following tasks if necessary:

Tasks to do immediately to avoid an infringement and/or possible prosecution	✓ or ✗
Stop sand from blowing off-site	
Sweep sand off footpaths, roads and gutters back onto site.	
Securely cover stockpiles at the end of each day.	
Locate stockpiles behind a sediment fence or barrier.	
Ensure sand is delivered and stored appropriately.	
Cover or wet exposed sand/soil stockpiles; use hydro-mulch or install a sediment fence; mulch or seed for longer term stockpiles.	
Stabilise slopes with gravel or mulch to prevent erosion.	
Prevent water from flowing off-site	
Ensure downpipes are correctly connected.	
Prepare the site for rainfall events. For example: divert excess water from site; securely cover stockpiles; install a sediment trap and/or fence.	
Stop sand, mud or soil from moving to or entering the stormwater entry pits	
Install sediment bunding around drains.	
Install stormwater drain inserts in gully entry drains.	
Retain sediments on site	
Install a dedicated wash down area (tyre wash).	
Clear site entry/exit points from excessive sand, mud or soil.	
Ensure all site traffic is entering/exiting the site from the designated entry/exit point.	
Stabilise entry/exit points with gravel.	
Remove excessive sand, mud or soil from sediment control devices.	
Install and maintain adequate sediment control fences.	
Make sure the build-up of sediment does not exceed 1/3 of the height of an installed sediment fence.	

Actions Taken to Prevent Sediment Loss			
Incident(s) e.g Sand on road	Date xx/xx/xxxx	Action(s) Cover stockpiles and sweep sand back onto site	Incident resolved (✓ or ✗)

Download at www.perthnrm.com/resources/resources-sediment-management

The Builder's On-Site Checklist for Inspecting Sediment Loss has been developed as part of the Sediment Task Force Project which is sponsored by:



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING
RIVERPARK





All builders (including sub-contractors, tradespersons & suppliers) must take responsibility for controlling sediment loss from building sites



The **builder or manager** has prime responsibility for controlling and supervising the construction operation including all site works.



The **site supervisor or foreman** is responsible for coordinating and establishing good practices on site.



The **individual trades** carry responsibility for their work and actions.



Covering soil is the best way to stop erosion caused by rain and wind*

Unlike sediment barriers (such as sediment fences), which capture eroded coarse sediment, **erosion controls can stop both coarse and fine sediment from eroding in the first place.**

How

- ◆ Only clear the area necessary to undertake building work. Keep as much existing soil cover on your site as possible.
- ◆ Only clear immediately before commencing building work, not weeks or months in advance.
- ◆ Cover bare soil as soon as possible. Rather than waiting for building work to finish, find a temporary covering that can be walked on during the building stage.

Some examples to cover soil include:

For slopes and batters - Erosion control blankets, turf or hydromulch.

For service trenches - Turf or gravel.

For stockpiles - Tarps or builder's plastic.

For the area between kerb and lot - Turf.

All other exposed soil around the building site - Mulch (gravel/straw/wood), turf or spray-on soil binders.

Maintenance - Regularly check your soil cover before and after rain. If bare soil is visible, you need to add more cover.

Site Rehabilitation - Revegetate and landscape your site as soon as building works are complete.



Stockpile Protection

Building materials are expensive. **Avoid stockpiles by only ordering the supplies you need. Save money and time by protecting your stockpiles.**

How

- ◆ Immediately cover soil and sand piles to reduce run-off from your site. You can use turf from footings, trenches or tarpaulins until a more permanent solution is used.
- ◆ Keep stockpiles of sand, soil or cement within your lot boundary and well away from drainage paths.
- ◆ Keep stockpiles at least 0.5m away from sediment barriers (e.g. sediment fences) to prevent damage.
- ◆ Cover and secure your stockpiles against wind and rain.
- ◆ Keep stockpiles out of overland flow paths. If this is not possible, direct water run-off around the stockpile.
- ◆ Where possible, stockpiles should be placed wholly within the construction site and at least 10m away from any surface water including: streams; lakes; rivers; waterways; stormwater systems; gutters; kerbs; and channels.
- ◆ Any spillage on the road or verge should be cleaned up immediately.

Maintenance - Conduct a daily check to ensure stockpiles are covered and contained.

Advantages to you



Reduce the cost of supplying sand for building sites and urban development/reduced stockpile losses.

Reduced clean-up costs and reduced risk of fines/loss of bond.



A better public image and fewer public complaints.

More marketable sites and earlier sales.



Earlier completion and reduced downtime.

All weather site access and improved wet weather conditions.



Erosion and soil control tip:*

Soil binders or soil stabilisers can be used to bind soil together and prevent it from eroding. **When using these products:**



Check with the supplier or manufacturer that the product can be planted over, is safe to use in residential areas, and is not toxic or harmful to plants, animals, and waterways.



Spray-on binders can be difficult to see on the ground unless a coloured dye is added.



Talk to your supplier about options. Products may need to be reapplied after a certain time. Check with your supplier about expected product life.

* Information courtesy of Healthy Land and Water.



Key recommendations:

1. Plan before you start work.
2. Limit disturbance when excavating.
3. Divert upslope stormwater.
4. Install sediment fences.
5. Wash equipment in a designated area.
6. Place sands and soil stockpiles behind a sediment fence.
7. Leave the footpath vegetated.
8. Store all hard waste and litter in a designated area.
9. Restrict vehicle movement to a stabilised access.