



Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Construction Sites

Install and maintain erosion and sediment controls.

- Preserve as much of the existing vegetation as possible.
- Clear the construction site during the dry season.
- Phase the clearing to minimize the time soils are exposed.
- Cover exposed soils with straw or other methods to prevent erosion.
- Reduce sediment runoff by using check dams, bio bags, straw wattles or other appropriate BMPs .
- Capture eroded sediment before it leaves the site with sediment fences, filter berms, or sediment traps/ponds.

Develop a construction site management plan (CSMP)

- Prepare a flexible erosion prevention plan to ensure erosion control measures fit the weather and site conditions.
- Prepare an accurate base map identifying existing site conditions and proposed grading.
- Identify any and all constructed or natural drainage systems in and/or near your construction site.
- Identify measures to physically protect areas where ground disturbance is prohibited (wetlands, waterways, etc.)
- Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize erosive processes and sediment transport from exposed soils.



The best way to keep sediments out of the water is to have a plan and materials in place to prevent erosion before it can travel offsite.



- Use berms, swales, and other structures to divert runoff from exposed soils.
- Identify Best Management Practices to control and capture any sediment in runoff before it discharges offsite.

Preserve vegetation and cover soils

- Keep soils stabilized with preserved vegetation to prevent erosion.
- Provide temporary cover to exposed soils with straw, mulch, mats, blankets or plastic sheeting with anchors.
- Establish permanent vegetation/cover as soon as possible after earthwork activities are complete.

Control runoff during construction

- Divert runoff from exposed soil using diversion dikes and ditches, diversion swales lined with grass, berms of soil or rock, or pipe drainage systems.
- Reduce the speed of runoff by planting exposed soils and ditches, roughening surfaces or installing check dams such as rocks, bio bags, and/or sandbags.

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Keep concrete and mortar out of storm drains

- Use designated wash-out areas to keep wash-water from entering the storm drain system.
- When building concrete aggregate driveways, wash fines to the side and collect them for disposal in garbage. Never wash them down the driveway.
- Never wash fresh concrete or mortar into a stream, storm drain or public right of way - which includes the vegetated strip between the curb and sidewalk.

Keep work areas clean

- Clean up wastes and litter at the work site each day.
- Sweep surfaces that drain to the storm drain system and dispose of sweepings properly.
- When sand-blasting a building, cover the ground with a tarp to catch the chips and protect nearby inlets to prevent debris from entering there too.
- Maintain construction equipment and vehicles regularly to help prevent oil and fuel leaks.
- When transporting saturated soils and other materials from the site, use water-tight trucks with covers or decant water on-site before hauling.
- Cover potentially polluting materials including waste containers, chemicals, paints and solvents, stockpiles of lumber, building materials, metal products, and/or landscaping materials.

Prepare for and clean up spills

- Prepare a spill response plan which includes contact names and phone numbers, clean-up instructions, and locations of spill containment and clean-up devices.
- Immediately stop the source of any spill. Cover the spill with absorbent material such as vermiculite, cat litter or sawdust. Absorbents used to clean a hazardous spill must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.



Muddy truck tires can carry soil into the street next to your site, where it will wash into local storm drains. Clearing your site during the dry months eliminates this messy situation.



For more information

Public Works, Erosion Prevention Program

Offices: 99 West 10th Avenue in the Atrium Building

Online materials: www.eugene-or.gov/erosion

Call our office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday at 541-682-8498