



# Temporary Soil Erosion Controls

## Soil Coverage Benefits

### Recommended Purpose

- Reduce runoff and erosion
- Conserve moisture
- Prevent surface compaction
- Control undesirable vegetation
- Increase biological activity in the soil.

Temporary soil coverage should be utilized for protection of exposed areas without seeding. Temporary soil coverage is applied to stabilize graded or cleared areas subject to erosion, for six months or less, where seeding may not have a suitable growing season to produce an erosion retardant cover. Consideration should be given to the method chosen in regard to slope.



Temporary soil coverage should be used to prevent erosion until permanent plantings are established.

## Site Preparation

- Cut and fill to permitted lines and grades
- Install needed sediment control measures as required such as dikes, diversions, berms, terraces and sediment barriers
- Loosen compact soil to a minimum depth of 3"

## Mulching Materials

- Dry straw or hay, spread at a rate of two to three tons per acre — thick enough so that no soil is visible beneath the straw or hay.
- Wood waste, chips, sawdust or bark, spread two to three inches deep.
- Hydro-seeding — One ton per acre, based on dry fiber weight.
- Erosion control matting or netting such as excelsior, jute, textile and plastic matting and netting, applied in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- Polyethylene or other plastic film, secured over banks and/or stockpiled soil material for temporary protection.

## Applying and Anchoring Mulch

- Apply straw or hay mulch uniformly by hand or mechanically. Anchor as appropriate and feasible.
- Spread wood waste uniformly on slopes that are 3:1 and flatter. No anchoring needed.
- Follow manufacturer's specifications for commercial matting and netting
- Spread film over exposed soils uniformly and anchor in place. Overlap all seams working uphill (side seams should be overlapped to prevent lift from prevailing winds).

### For more information about the Erosion Prevention Program

Offices at 99 West 10th Avenue  
in the Atrium Building

Call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
Monday–Friday, 541-682-8498.

Online materials:

[www.eugene-or.gov/erosion](http://www.eugene-or.gov/erosion)