

By making use of some simple Best Management Practices (BMPs) a developer can do his or her share to protect Ohio's water resources from the harmful effects of sediment. The topography of the site and the extent of the construction activities will determine which of these practices are applicable to any given site, but the BMPs listed here are applicable to most construction sites. For details on the installation and maintenance of these BMPs, please refer to ***Rainwater and Land Development***, *Ohio's Standards for Storm Water Management, Land Development and Urban Stream Protection* (Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 1996), available from your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

**Temporary Stabilization**

This is the most effective BMP. All disturbed areas that will lie dormant for over 21 days must be stabilized within 7 days of the date the area becomes inactive. The goal of temporary stabilization is to provide cover, quickly. Areas within 50 feet of a stream must be stabilized within 2 days of inactivity. This is accomplished by seeding with fast-growing grasses then covering with straw mulch. Apply only mulch between November 1 and March 31. To minimize your costs of temporary stabilization, leave natural cover in place for as long as possible. Only disturb areas you intend to work within the next 21 days.

**Construction Entrances**

Construction entrances are installed to minimize off-site tracking of sediments. A stone access drive should be installed at every point where vehicles enter or exit the site. Every individual lot should also have its own drive once construction on the lot begins.

**Sediment Ponds**

This is the sediment control of choice for areas, which exceed the design capacity of silt fence (see page 119 of the ***Rainwater*** manual) or to control concentrated flows or runoff. There are two types of sediment ponds: sediment basins and sediment traps. A sediment trap is appropriate where the contributing drainage area is 10 acres or less. The outlet is an earthen embankment with a simple stone spillway. A sediment basin is appropriate for drainage areas larger than 10 acres. The outlet is an engineered riser pipe. Often a permanent storm water management pond, such as a retention or detention basin, can be modified to act as a sediment basin during construction. All sediment ponds, regardless of whether they are a trap or a basin and regardless of whether they will become a permanent storm water pond, must provide a minimum storage of 67 cubic yards per acre of total contributing drainage area. Sediment ponds must be installed within 7 days of first grubbing the area they control.

**Silt Fence**

This is typically used at the perimeter of a disturbed area. It's only for small drainage areas on relatively flat slopes or around small soil storage piles. Not suitable where runoff is concentrated in a ditch, pipe or through streams. For large drainage areas where flow is concentrated, collect runoff in diversion berms or channels and pass it through a sediment pond prior to discharging it from the site. Combination barriers constructed of silt fence supported by straw bales or silt fence embedded within rock check dams may be effective within small channels. As with all sediment controls, silt fence must be capable of ponding runoff so that sediment can settle out of suspension. Silt fence must be installed within 7 days of first grubbing the area it controls.

**Inlet Protection**

These must be installed on all yard drains and curb drains when these inlets do not drain to a sediment trap or basin. Even if there is a sediment trap or basin, inlet protection is still recommended, as it will increase the overall sediment removal efficiency. Best used on roads with little or no traffic. If working properly, inlet protection will cause water to pond. If used on curb inlets, streets will flood temporarily during heavy storms. Check with your municipality before installing curb inlet protection. They may prefer an alternate means of sediment control such as silt fence or ponds.

**Permanent Stabilization**

All areas at final grade must be permanently stabilized within 7 days of reaching final grade. This is usually accomplished by using seed and mulch, but special measures are sometimes required. This is particularly true in drainage ditches or on steep slopes. These measures include the addition of topsoil, erosion control matting, rock rip-rap or retaining walls. Permanent seeding should be done March 1 to May 31 and August 1 to September 30. Dormant seeding can be done from November 20 to March 15. At all other times of the year, the area should be temporarily stabilized until a permanent seeding can be applied.

**Non-Sediment Pollution Control**

Although sediment is the pollutant of greatest concern on most construction sites, there are other sources of pollution. Most of these BMPs are easy to implement with a little bit of planning and go a long way toward keeping your site clean and organized. Please be sure to inform all contractors how these BMPs affect their operations on the site, particularly those that will be working near a stream.