EROSION AND SEDIMENT BMPs

Did you know

that water in the storm drain system flows directly to our rivers, creeks, bays, and ocean – along with pollutants it carries?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) help protect water quality to reduce or prevent sources of pollutants across San Diego County, which ultimately decreases the amount of pollutants in our stormwater.

Sediment is the most common pollutant in our waterways and comes from eroded soils. **BMPs must be implemented whenever construction activities disturb or expose soil to prevent erosion and control sediment from leaving the area.** It is important that erosion and sediment control BMPs are properly **installed and maintained in order to function effectively.**

Below are some examples of BMPs that **help prevent sediment from leaving a construction site:**

(SC-6 Caltrans Factsheet for more info)

WHAT IT DOES: Intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, and remove sediment from runoff.

WHERE IT'S USED: Down slope of disturbed soil, around stockpiles, along streams and channels, paved areas, and the perimeter of a project.

HOW TO INSTALL: Bags should be aligned in rows without any gaps between bags. They can be used in overlapping layers or stacked when necessary.

MAINTENANCE ALERT: Must be maintained and replaced, since degraded or damaged bags can discharge sediment.

(SC-1 Caltrans Factsheet for more info)

WHAT IT DOES: Intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, and remove sediment from runoff.

WHERE IT'S USED: Level areas, down slope of disturbed soil, around stockpiles, along streams and channels, and the perimeter of a project.

HOW TO INSTALL: The bottom of the silt fence must be buried at least 12 inches and support posts should be less than 6 feet apart.

MAINTENANCE ALERT: Must be maintained and replaced since the fabric has a limited lifespan.

(TC-1 Caltrans Factsheet for more info)

WHAT IT DOES: Reduces the transportation of mud and dirt onto public roads by vehicles leaving the construction area.

WHERE IT'S USED: At every vehicle entrance and exit for a construction area. The number of entry/exit areas should be limited and must be graded to prevent area runoff.

HOW TO INSTALL: A 12 inch deep gravel bed, with stones between 3-6 inches in diameter, should be applied to the area. Rumble racks can also be used to shake dirt off vehicles.

MAINTENANCE ALERT: Must be cleaned to be effective. Any sediment that reaches the street should be swept.

(SC-5 Caltrans Factsheet for more info)

WHAT IT DOES: Intercept runoff, reduce flow velocity, and remove sediment from runoff.

WHERE IT'S USED: Up slope and/or down slope of disturbed soil, and along the perimeter of a project.

HOW TO INSTALL: Rolls should be laid parallel to the slope contour, slightly trenched, and staked every 4 feet. If using multiple rolls, they should be overlapped.

MAINTENANCE ALERT: Must be maintained and replaced as they become degraded.

Below is an example of a BMP that helps **prevent erosion at a construction site:**

WHAT IT DOES: Final cover, such as vegetation, mulch, rock, or gravel prevents disturbed soils from eroding.

WHERE IT'S USED: All projects that disturb soil require final cover once construction activities are finished. Some examples include exposed slopes, soil around buildings, and refilled trenched areas.

HOW TO INSTALL: If using vegetation it must be evenly distributed and cover at least 70% of the disturbed area. Alternatively, the disturbed area can be 100% covered by inert materials such as mulch, rock, or gravel.

MAINTENANCE ALERT: Inert materials are relatively low maintenance, though vegetation may need watering to be properly maintained.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you need more information about BMPs please contact the Planning and Development Services at **www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/bldg.html**