



EROSION CONTROL

Department of Public Works & Building Department

Homebuilders and Small Construction Sites

Eroding construction sites are a leading cause of water quality problems in Minnesota and across the nation. For every acre under construction, about a dump truck and a half of soil washes into a nearby lake or stream unless the builder uses erosion controls.

Who Needs to Provide Erosion Control?

The building permit holder for all construction sites must provide onsite erosion control measures until the site is fully vegetated. In most cases this will be permitted through the Subdivision Registration process of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES Phase II). This is done through the original permit which is held by the owner of the overall development.

As a homeowner, you are responsible for inspecting and maintaining temporary stabilization measures until permanent ground cover is established on your yard.

More information is available at:

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html

What is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater (NPDES) Program?

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Stormwater Program is a comprehensive national program for addressing polluted stormwater runoff.

The program regulates stormwater discharges from construction sites, industrial facilities and municipalities using NPDES permits. These permits require Permittee to control polluted discharges.

General Stormwater Permit is necessary for owners and operators of construction activities disturbing:

- One acre or more of soil
- Less than one acre of soil if that activity is part of a "larger common plan of development or sale" that is greater than one acre
- Less than one acre of soil, but the MPCA determines that the activity poses a risk to water resources

The State of Minnesota regulates the disposal of stormwater by a State Disposal System (SDS) permit. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers both NPDES and SDS Permits in Minnesota.



Controlling Erosion can be easy*

Erosion control is important even for home sites of an acre or less. The materials needed are easy to find and relatively inexpensive - sod strips or silt fence, rock entrances, quick growing grass seed. Putting these materials to use is a straight forward process. Only a few controls are needed on most sites.

- Preserve existing trees and grass where ever possible to prevent erosion.
- Revegetating bare soil on the site as soon as possible with sod or appropriate seed mix. Vegetation is the most effective way to prevent erosion.
- Two rows of sod or properly installed silt fence can help protect the storm drains and trap sediment on the downslope sites of the lot
- Placing soil piles away from any roads or waterways.
- Install a 1 ¼" rock by 4" deep by 25' access drive to be used by all vehicles to prevent tracking mud onto the road.
- Clean up sediment that does get carried off-site by vehicles or storms immediately.
- Dispose of concrete wash water in a designated area away from areas that can reach storm drains or other waters of the state.
- Downspout extenders to prevent erosion from roof runoff.
- Properly dispose of waste – it is illegal to dispose down the storm sewer.
- Follow all required erosion and sediment control measures on construction sites.
- Inspect the site after each ½ " or more rainfalls and perform repairs with 24 hours of discovery.
- Site dewatering may not be discharged in a manner that causes erosion, sedimentation, or flooding on the site, on downstream properties, in the receiving channels, or in any wetland.

*** For information on appropriate measures for your site, contact the City of Hutchinson Environmental Specialist at 320.234.5682**