



SEDIMENT TASK FORCE - FOR BUILDERS

COMMON EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FAILURES



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING
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Common Erosion and Sediment Control Failures

The risk of soil erosion and sediment runoff from your building site is directly proportional to the intensity of rainfall and storm events; soil type, the amount of soil exposed to water; and the slope of the exposed land.

Inadequate management of erosion and sediment loss on building sites is commonly caused by:

1. Lack of stabilised entry/exit points.
2. Unnecessary site disturbance (such as parking or driving on exposed soil).
3. Not diverting upslope water (from offsite).
4. No installation of sediment controls such as sediment fences, sediment traps or turf strips.
5. Incorrect placement and protection (covering) of soil and builders sand stockpiles.
6. Delays in connecting downpipes to stormwater drains.
7. Insufficient site checks and regular maintenance.
8. No emergency plan being in place for unexpected weather events.

How to avoid these common mistakes

- Identify highly erodible soils that may require additional erosion and sediment control measures.
- Minimise your 'footprint' of soil disturbance - protect your site from erosion by stabilising and covering the soil as soon as you can to stop both fine and coarse particles from leaving your site.
- Maintain as much vegetation, grass, mulch, and other soil coverage on your property as practical.
- Stabilise steep areas to control erosion caused by water run-off.
- Consider landform and expected rainfall intensity (including storms) during period of disturbance.
- Divert up-slope water around your work site.
- Avoid "slab on ground" construction on steep sites.
- Install permanent or temporary downpipes to manage roof water as soon as the roof is on.
- Always clean up any soil or mud that is deposited on the roadway from vehicles delivering materials or that runs off your site at the end of the working day. Use a broom or shovel, instead of a hose and deposit it back on site.
- Ensure daily and weekly site maintenance regimes are in place, and extra checks before and after rain.

Erosion control is the cheapest control measure and achieves the best outcomes. Erosion and sediment controls must:

- Be put in place before any excavation or earthmoving takes place.
- Be maintained until the end of construction and/or when the site is stabilised.
- Not divert stormwater onto neighbouring properties.
- Not cause erosion.

Further Information

Guidance provided in this Building Information Sheet is general and specific site erosion and sediment control designs may be required to ensure compliance with individual Local Government Authorities' Local Laws. Contact your Local Government website or enquiry line. Also check out:

[Sediment Task Force Resources \(including Builder's Checklist\)](#)

[Housing industry Association \(WA\)](#)

[Master Builders Association](#)

[YourHome - Sediment Control](#)

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Resources](#)

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control \(BPESC\) Document](#)

For the Latest Innovations in Erosion and Sediment Control

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Environmental Excellence Awards](#)

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