



# SEDIMENT TASK FORCE - FOR BUILDERS

## RISK ASSESSMENT



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING  
RIVERPARK



Perth NRM

## A tool for minimising erosion and sediment loss

Whenever vegetation is removed, soil is disturbed, or the overland flow of stormwater runoff is altered, there is a risk of soil erosion and sediment runoff. On building sites, this risk is directly proportional to:

- The intensity of rainfall and storm events.
- The amount of soil exposed to water.
- The slope of the exposed land.

## Minimise your soil disturbance ‘footprint’ with two simple steps

1. **Always maintain maximum plant cover on soil surfaces**, using staged earthworks and/or temporary vegetation.
2. **Keep it covered.** Stabilising and covering soil as soon as possible will stop both fine and coarse particles from leaving your site.

## Sediment control is both cheap and effective

Sediment controls can be up to 90% effective at reducing sediment runoff during normal flow. The effectiveness of sediment controls is dramatically reduced during storm events.

Install erosion and sediment control structures before site disturbance and construction work begin.

All erosion and sediment controls installed on site should be in accordance with [International Erosion Control Association Australasia \(IECA\) best practice](#).

## Additional Measures

- Prepare your site for rainfall events (divert excess water from site, securely cover stockpiles, install a sediment trap and/or fence).
- Store additional sediment control materials (fencing, stakes, etc) on-site to facilitate emergency repairs.
- If you can't stabilise with vegetation, cover soil and sand stockpiles with an appropriate wind and waterproof membrane, behind a sediment fence.
- Retain topsoil for later use in revegetation works.
- Divert upstream overflow drainage away from your site.
- Intercept and redirect runoff on the site to protect all exposed areas.
- Stabilise access ways. Controlling vehicular access (especially when there are multiple trades on site) is an important part of keeping soil on site.

## Regular site inspections will help manage potential risks

- Nominate a person who is specifically responsible for on-site erosion and sediment control measures.
- Establish a site inspection routine and risk assessment plan, with maintenance and reporting procedures.
- Use identification tags, such as a strip of cloth stapled to sediment fence fabric or a flag, to identify those measures requiring maintenance.

## Report ALL erosion, sediment loss or stormwater pollution incidents

Use your incident reporting procedures if erosion and sediment loss occur on your site:

1. Identify who is responsible for what and when.
2. Put procedures into place to record reasons for non-compliance and for recording corrective actions.
3. Undertake regular reporting procedures (weekly at minimum).
4. Visit your site immediately after rainfall and storm events to ensure your plans for unexpected weather are effective.

# Train your staff, subcontractors and tradespersons to assess the risks

Ensure that EVERYONE working on your site understands how important it is to prevent soil erosion and stormwater pollution and to report potential problems to the person responsible for immediate action.

During your site inductions include information on:

- Environmental management.
- Best practice erosion and sediment control practices.
- Incident reporting.
- Site inspection and maintenance procedures.
- Emergency response and environmental control requirements.



The **builder or manager** has prime responsibility for controlling and supervising the construction operation including all site works.



The **site supervisor or foreman** is responsible for coordinating and establishing good practices on site.



The **individual trades** carry responsibility for their work and actions.

## 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](#)

[Water by Design](#)

[Healthy Land & Water](#)

[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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