



SEDIMENT TASK FORCE - FOR RESIDENTS

WE CAN ALL STOP SEDIMENT RUNOFF FROM OUR HOME



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING
RIVERPARK



Perth NRM

We Can All Stop Sediment Runoff From Our Home

While building, renovations and construction are a primary concern for the Sediment Task Force, the underlying goal is to maintain the health of our environment – and that’s a goal we can all help achieve.

Nature is always moving – so when rain flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns it can collect and transport soil, silt, sand, mud and dust (sediment) from your property. Sediment can also be transported from your property during hosing down of lawns, gardens, driveways, verges and paths, and car washing.

This sediment can also contain pet waste, pesticides and herbicides, fertiliser, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants which can make its way via the drainage system directly into nearby creeks, streams, and rivers. Sediment build up in local waterways can create habitat for mosquitoes and midges and may affect local property values. Help prevent water pollution and localised flooding, and eliminate potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes and midges, by keeping soil and sand off your roads and paths.

You Can:

- Remember “Drains are just for Rain”;
- Keep your property landscaped to minimise soil loss. If you undertake construction works such as putting in a swimming pool, laying a pad for a garden shed or paving, ensure you prevent soil and sand from running off your work area;
- Use mulch, compost or groundcovers to protect your topsoils;
- Avoid parking on grass as vehicles can disturb topsoil;
- Use a straw erosion control blanket if restarting or tilling a lawn;
- Sweep or blow sediment and lawn clippings back off the verge and into the garden or dispose of collected sediment and lawn clippings in a bin or composting system;
- Sweep footpaths and driveways instead of hosing them off;
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on a surface that absorbs water (grass or gravel);
- Reduce future pollution and runoff from your property by installing a rainwater tank, using porous paving and/or establishing a native garden using plants found in your local area (a waterwise garden);
- Avoid mowing within three metres of a stream or creek. This maintains a buffer zone that will help minimise erosion and naturally filter stormwater runoff that may contain sediment;
- Plant native vegetation along waterways (on your property and/or join a local river restoration group);
- Report soil and sediment runoff to your Local Government (when you see sediment entering streets or streams near a subdivision, construction or building site), or if you think there is the potential for water pollution in a rainfall event (e.g. builders sand deposited in the gutter); and
- Check with your local government on how to dispose of waste materials in your area.

Further Information

Specific site erosion and sediment control measures may be required to be installed by your builder to ensure compliance with individual Local Government Authority’s Local Laws. Contact your Local Government website or enquiry line.

You (and your Builders) can find out more at:

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

[Your Home \(Australian Government\)](#)

[SERCUL \(How you can Help\)](#)

[Gardening Australia \(ABC\) - Preventing Soil Erosion](#)



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The Sediment Task Force is funded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
and supported by Perth NRM