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HELPING YOU COMPLY WITH THE CODE

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SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL (SEC) INFORMATION

Sediment Control: Disturbed soil is to be stabilized to prevent movement from wind, rain, or tracking.

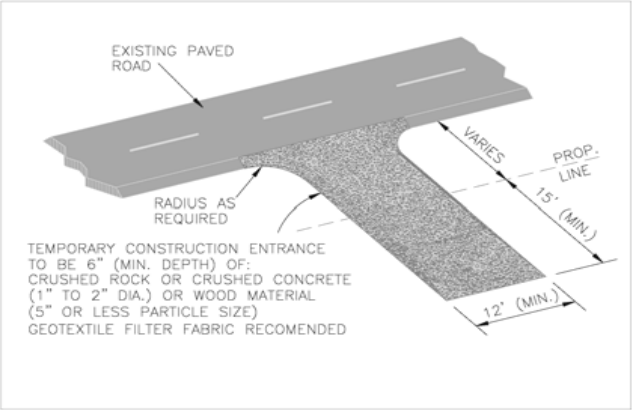
Erosion Prevention: If soil particles escape stabilization, those particles must be prevented from leaving the job site.

Sediment Control and Erosion Prevention information addresses keeping soil on the property where construction is taking place. (Check the ordinances of the municipality where your project is located for specific requirements.)

This handout gives detailed information about how to meet SEC requirements. Once you are familiar with the subject, there is a checklist on page 2 that can be used on the job site as a reminder.

Before you begin your building project, design your SEC Plan. This is not only for the property owners' benefit, but is most likely required by your municipality. The owners must keep soil stable and ensure that it stays in their yard, the municipality wants to keep it out of the storm water system, and the Waters of the State must be protected. The following areas should be considered when developing your plan:

A. Perimeter Control – The susceptible perimeter of the construction area should have a device in place to prevent the disturbed soil from leaving the site. This could be a silt fence, straw bales, mulch berms, or an 8' long/wide grass or vegetation buffer zone. There are other approved methods if you research online.
B. Construction Entrance – The area where construction vehicles will be entering and leaving the property is a hotspot for tracking mud. For large projects, it may be required to create a "drive way" of ≥1½" washed rock 6" deep (the length and width may vary depending on the project area). In some entrances, a wash rack may need to be installed. In all instances, you should have a heavy-duty broom and shovel to clean the street daily. For more information, see http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=7419.



C. Stockpile Control – What happens to a pile of dirt on windy days or days with rain? It gets smaller and most likely ends up in the stormwater system. You are responsible for preventing this with the use of silt fences, straw bales, tarping, or some other device.
D. Turf establishment – It is never too early to start planning a long term design to keep the topsoil on the property. Check with a landscape designer or spend some time surfing the net to find some creative landscaping tricks that will ensure that your topsoil doesn't end up clogging the municipal stormwater system. It is better to pay for a nice looking yard than to pay higher taxes because the stormwater system is clogged!

All construction site activity shall include the necessary precautions to control and mitigate the erosion of soil, sediment, silt, gravel, or other material onto adjacent road and walkways, properties, and all waters. The property owner and/or permit holder for the construction site shall be responsible for complying with the requirements set forth below, including activities by subcontractors, suppliers, or others involved with the construction project. This following list represents minimum requirements for all sites:

1. All materials tracked or otherwise deposited on roadways adjacent to a construction site or on roadways being used as haul routes for material being delivered to or being removed from a site shall be cleaned daily, unless more frequent cleaning is required by the municipality.
2. All material, which is deposited on adjacent roadways as a result of a precipitation event, shall be removed, including cleaning of storm sewer or overland drainage ditches, within 24 hours following the event.
3. Construction sites, including large excavation projects (new home-type construction) will be required to install silt fencing or other erosion prevention devices in all areas that adjoin public streets and the property line where soil can run onto adjoining properties. For more severe erosion problems, additional measures shall be taken, such as installing hay bales, constructing berms or sediment traps, or taking other actions which reduce or eliminate erosion from the site. Should an access onto the site be desired, a rock entrance will be required. The silt fence shall be dug in or installed so as to protect the adjacent properties, and maintained until permanent vegetation is established or landscaping is installed.

TYPES OF SEDIMENT CONTROL DEVICES

Buffer: At least 8' of grass or existing vegetation (>90% coverage) around exposed soils and stock piled soils. Exception: 50' of grass or vegetation must be present between exposed soil and waters of the state.

Tarps or plastic must be installed on top of stock piles to prevent soils from blowing away.

Silt Fences: Curtains or permeable fabric which is erected with stakes and partially buried to restrict run off. These fences should not be removed until permanent vegetation is established.

Construction Entrances: Use 1½ - 3" sized clean rock (not recycle mix or class 5) to cover the length and width of the ingress and egress area. Spread the rock so it is 6" thick.

Temporary vegetation such as annual grasses and mulching materials (straw, wood chips/wood mulch, wood fiber blanket, etc.): You may need to re-install washed out mulch or use netting, stakes, or chemical binders to keep it in place.

Clean up after your work: Sweep or scrape up soil that is tracked onto the road.

Straw or hay bales, mulch berms: Placed around the construction area, if installed correctly using best management practices (BMPs), these will restrict run-off.

PERMANENT VEGETATION

Temporary SEC devices should stay in place until permanent vegetation is established. Here are some tips for landscaping with SEC in mind:

- ☐ Keep and protect existing native trees, bushes, and plants on your property.
- ☐ Schedule landscaping projects for dry weather.
- ☐ Terrace slopes to slow the flow of runoff.
- ☐ Plant fast-growing annual and perennial grasses.
- ☐ Water new seed or sod lightly, every day or two, for two weeks to keep soil moist.
- ☐ Use well-adapted native plants that reduce runoff.
- ☐ Plant lawn alternatives like rain gardens, prairie plants, or no-mow lawn mixes.
- ☐ Route downspouts and other drainage to heavily vegetated areas.
- ☐ Use crushed rocks, pavers, or other pervious alternatives that allow rainwater to seep into the ground for walkways, RV pads, decks, patios, and drives.
- ☐ Leave an un-mowed buffer strip of thick vegetation along stream banks and lakeshores.
- ☐ Use caution when landscaping near your home, especially next to the foundation. Changes in the final grade can lead to water pooling against your foundation, and basement water damage.
- ☐ Use a landscaping firm experienced with stormwater design.
- ☐ Check with your local government to make sure your landscape design meets any local regulations.

SEC SITE CHECKLIST

The inspection department will be monitoring the Sediment and Erosion control devices. If you have questions regarding this procedure, please call the inspection department at 952-442-7520. Site monitoring by the contractor should include:

Sediment and Erosion Control Devices:

- ☐ Erosion control device is in good condition, no holes or gaps.
- ☐ Silt fence (if used) is trenched in to a minimum of 6".
- ☐ Sediment is not more than 1/3 the height of device.

Construction Entrance:

- ☐ Rock is installed the full width of the construction entrance (20' wide x 50' long x 6" deep of ≥ 1½" rock).
- ☐ Street and sidewalk are free of sediment.
  Note: Side yards used as access shall comply with above guidelines.

Construction site:

- ☐ Wetland or surface water is protected (if applicable).
- ☐ Storm sewer inlets are protected (if applicable).
- ☐ Construction debris is disposed of in an approved container.
- ☐ Debris is not blowing or leaving site.
- ☐ Grass, weeds or underbrush are kept to an appropriate level.

TEMPLATE