

What is sediment?

Sediment is material such as silt, sand and gravel that is transported from a site by wind or water, and deposited downstream in the environment.

Why control sediment?

Sediment and other building materials can enter the road drainage system and contribute to the pollution of Perth's waterways when allowed to drift from building sites. Reasons for control include:

- Blocked road drains and flooding
- Sand deposition in wetlands
- Nutrient enrichment of waterways
- Harm to aquatic wildlife and vegetation
- Comply with State and Local Laws.

Benefits to the builder!

By applying the six measures detailed in this brochure, on-site benefits to the builder include:

- Less mud and dust problems
- Savings from reduced stockpile losses
- Reduced clean-up costs
- Increased environmental credentials
- Improved Occupational Health and Safety
- Improved wet weather conditions
- Fewer complaints from the public.



For further information contact your local council



Town of Cambridge:
9347 6000



Town of Claremont:
9285 4300



Town of Cottesloe

Town of Cottesloe:
9285 5000



Town of Mosman Park:
9384 1633



City of Nedlands:
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Shire of Peppermint
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City of Subiaco:
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Sediment Control for Building Sites



Practical ways to reduce erosion and control sediment on building and land development sites

Follow these six steps to reduce negative impacts on our waterways:

1. Limit site disturbance

Preserve as much vegetation on site as possible when completing earthworks, as plant roots stabilise the land and help keep soil in place. Leave strips of vegetation around the perimeter of the site to help minimise sand drift.



Sediment control fencing abutting vegetation prior to earthworks.

2. Vehicle access point

Restrict vehicle access to one entry and exit point to minimise movement of sediment onto the road. It may help to stabilise the access way with coarse material to create a rumble pad.

Ensure all vehicles carrying sand, on and off site, are adequately covered to prevent drift during transportation.

3. Install a sediment control fence

A sediment control fence should be installed on all construction sites.

The most efficient sediment barrier is made from geotextile material, and is commonly referred to as a silt fence.

The geotextile material should be secured to the perimeter fence at the site, from ground level to at least 600 mm height. This prevents sediment passing through and underneath the fence.

The preferred method for securing the geotextile material is to place at least 200 mm on the ground facing into the construction site covered with 100 mm layer of coarse aggregate in a filter roll or silt sock.



Secure the geotextile material to the perimeter fence to a minimum height of 600 mm.

4. Stockpile sand within the site

Place stockpiles of materials wholly within the construction site and away from the sediment control fence.



Sand and concrete stockpiled outside of construction site.

5. Have a wash down zone

Have a dedicated wash down zone for cleaning tools and equipment. This should be located within the construction site away from the sediment control fence. Wash water and other liquid waste must not be allowed onto footpaths, roads or into drains.

6. Address building drainage early

Contain all rainfall runoff from roofs on site through the use of gutters and soakwells. This should be done as soon as possible after the roof is laid.

In some cases, temporary downpipes to a drainage system may be required.