The Low Risk Site Handbook
for
Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

VERMONT
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The Low Risk Site Handbook for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

Any construction activity that disturbs 1 or more acres of land, or is part of a larger development plan that will disturb 1 or more acres, requires a Vermont state permit for stormwater discharges from construction sites.

Construction General Permit 3-9020 guides an applicant in the determination of the potential risk to water quality from the construction activity and categorizes the applicant's activity as Low Risk, Moderate Risk, or that which requires an Individual Permit.

The standards in this handbook serve as the required Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Plan for construction sites determined to be "Low Risk" under GP-3-9020.

Contact Information

VT DEC - Water Quality Division
Stormwater Section
103 South Main Street, Building 10 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408
Tel: 802-241-3770 or 4320

www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm

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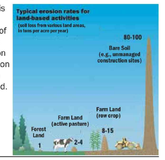
Section 1
Introduction

What is erosion prevention and sediment control?

Sediment washing into streams is one of the largest water quality problems in Vermont. Sediment can kill or weaken fish and other organisms and adversely impact aquatic habitat.

On most construction sites, vegetation that holds the soil in place and protects it from erosive forces of rain and runoff is removed, leaving large areas of soil exposed to the elements. During rainfall or snowmelt, the exposed soil may be easily eroded and transported to nearby streams, lakes, or wetlands.

To prevent this from happening, a small number of simple practices to prevent erosion and contain soil on the construction site must be used.



Do I need a permit?

Any construction activity that disturbs 1 or more acres of land, or is part of a larger development plan that will disturb 1 or more acres, requires a Vermont state permit for stormwater discharges from construction sites.

Application Process

1. Obtain a copy of the permit and determine the Risk Category of the proposed project. The permit is available online at: www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater.htm.
2. Submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) form, notifying the Department of your intent to begin construction. **Submit the NOI to DEC at least 60 days before you plan to begin construction to allow sufficient time for processing.*
3. Upon receipt of written authorization from DEC, you are covered under the permit and may begin construction.
4. If your project is determined to be "Low Risk", you must follow this handbook for erosion prevention and sediment control on your construction site.
5. If your site is not classified as Low Risk, then you must follow the Department guidance in GP 3-9020 for Moderate Risk activities or those requiring an Individual Permit.

Section 2
The Requirements

1. Mark Site Boundaries

Purpose:

Mark the site boundaries to identify the limits of construction. Delineating your site will help to limit the area of disturbance, preserve existing vegetation and limit erosion potential on the site.

Requirements:

You must physically mark the limits of construction.

How to comply:

Before beginning construction, walk the site boundaries and flag trees, post signs, or install orange safety fence.

Fence is required on any boundary within 50 feet of a stream, lake, pond or wetland, unless the area is already developed (existing roads, buildings, etc.)

Properly placed barrier tape marks the boundaries and limits of construction on this site.

2. Limit Disturbance Area

Purpose:

Limit the amount of soil exposed at one time to reduce the potential erosion on site.

Requirements:

The permitted disturbance area is specified on the site's written authorization to discharge. Only the acreage listed on the authorization form may be exposed at any given time.

How to comply:

Plan ahead and phase the construction activities to ensure that no more than the permitted acreage is disturbed at one time.

Be sure to properly stabilize exposed soil with seed and mulch or erosion control matting before beginning work in a new section of the site.

This residential subdivision is being constructed in phases. To limit the total disturbance area, only a few home sites are under construction at one time.

3. Stabilize Construction Entrance

Purpose:

A stabilized construction entrance helps remove mud from vehicle wheels to prevent tracking onto streets.

Requirements:

If there will be any vehicle traffic off of the construction site, you must install a stabilized construction entrance before construction begins.

Construction entrance detail. Entrance/exit pad must keep mud from tracking onto both paved and dirt roads.

How to install:

Rock Size: Use a mix of 1 to 4 inch stone
Depth: 8 inches minimum
Width: 12 feet minimum
Length: 40 feet minimum (or length of driveway, if shorter)
Geotextile: Place filter cloth under entire gravel bed

Maintenance:

Redress with clean stone as required to keep sediment from tracking onto the street.

Good stabilized construction entrance. Adequate width to accommodate construction traffic and prevent mud tracking onto neighboring streets. Ensure that the pad is 8 inches deep and 40 feet long.

Poor construction exit. Rock pad is poorly constructed; rock is too small. Use filter fabric under 1 - 4 inch rock. No mud should be tracked onto roads.

Rock sizing and placement look OK for residential site, and very little mud appears on the road. The pad should be at least 8 inches thick and 12 feet wide. Ensure that pad is used as the entrance and exit points - note track marks near curb. Entire area needs seed and mulch.

Rock pad was installed properly with right sized rock, but lack of filter fabric underliner is causing rock to spread and sink into the soil. Note tracking of mud onto road. Mud tracked on roadways violates the permit requirements and is a potential legal liability.

4. Install Silt Fence

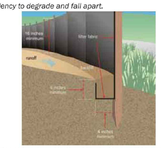
Purpose:

Silt fences intercept runoff and allow suspended sediment to settle out.

Requirements:

Silt fence must be installed:
- on the downhill side of the construction activities
- between any ditch, swale, storm sewer inlet, or waters of the State and the disturbed soil

** Hay bales must not be used as sediment barriers due to their tendency to degrade and fail apart.*



Remember: stakes go on the downhill side. Dig trench first, install fence in downhill side of trench, tuck fabric into trench, then backfill on the uphill side (the side toward the bare soil area).

Where to place:

- Place silt fence on the downhill edge of bare soil. At the bottom of slopes, place fence 10 feet downhill from the end of the slope (if space is available).
- Ensure the silt fence catches all runoff from bare soil.
- Maximum drainage area is ¼ acre for 100 feet of silt fence.
- Install silt fence across the slope (not up and down hills!)
- Install multiple rows of silt fence on long hills to break up flow.
- Do not install silt fence across ditches, channels, or streams or in stream buffers.

How to install silt fence:

- Dig a trench 6 inches deep across the slope
- Unroll silt fence along the trench
- Ensure stakes are on the downhill side of the fence
- Join fencing by rolling the end stakes together
- Drive stakes in against downhill side of trench
- Drive stakes until 16 inches of fabric is in trench
- Push fabric into trench; spread along bottom
- Fill trench with soil and pack down

Maintenance:

- Remove accumulated sediment before it is halfway up the fence.
- Ensure that silt fence is trenched in ground and there are no gaps.

Very good use of continuous "super" (reinforced) silt fence. Note that wire fencing is installed between the filter fabric and the posts.

Good use of J-hook in silt fence to trap sediment in water running along the fence. Sediment must be removed before it reaches halfway to top of fence.

Very good installation of multiple silt fences on long slope. Turn ends of fencing uphill to prevent bypass. Leave silt fences up until grass is well established on all areas of the slope. Re-seed bare areas as soon as possible. Remove or spread accumulated sediment and remove silt fence after all grass is up.

Poor installation of silt fencing. Silt fence must be trenched in along bottom. Hay bales are not approved as sediment barriers.

5. Divert Upland Runoff

Purpose:

Diversion berms intercept runoff from above the construction site and direct it around the disturbed area. This prevents "clean" water from becoming muddied with soil from the construction site.

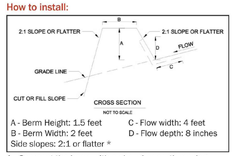
Requirements:

If stormwater runs onto your site from upslope areas and your site meets the following two conditions, you must install a diversion berm before disturbing any soil.

1. You plan to have one or more acres of soil exposed at any one time (excluding roads).
2. Average slope of the disturbed area is 20% or steeper.*

Berms and ditches divert clean upland runoff around construction sites and reduce erosion and sedimentation problems. Stabilize berms and ditches after construction.

How to install:



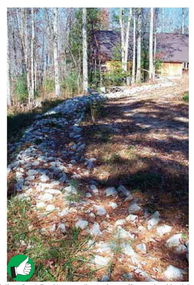
A - Berm Height: 1.5 feet
B - Berm Width: 2 feet
Side slopes: 2:1 or flatter *
C - Flow width: 4 feet
D - Flow depth: 8 inches

1. Compact the berm with a shovel or earth-moving equipment.
2. Seed and mulch berm or cover with erosion control matting immediately after installation.
3. Stabilize the flow channel with seed and straw mulch or erosion control matting. Line the channel with 4 inch stone if the channel slope is greater than 20%*.
4. Ensure the berm drains to an outlet stabilized with riprap. Ensure that there is no erosion at the outlet.
5. The diversion berm shall remain in place until the disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

* See page 39 for slope calculations.

Good construction, seeding, and stabilization of diversion berm. Note that diversion ditch is lined with grass on flatter part of slope, and with rock on steeper part.

Well built vegetated berm diverting runoff. Diversion berms and ditches should be seeded after construction. Use matting if slopes are steep.



Good installation of rock-lined berm to divert rain runoff around residential construction site on steep slope near a river. Diversion ditches can be lined with grass if channel slopes are 5% or less, and with 4 inch stone if they are steeper.

6. Slow Down Channelized Runoff

Purpose:

Stone check dams reduce erosion in drainage channels by slowing down the stormwater flow.

Requirements:

If there is a concentrated flow (e.g. in a ditch or channel) of stormwater on your site, then you must install stone check dams. Hay bales must not be used as check dams.

How to install:

Height: No greater than 2 feet. Center of dam should be 9 inches lower than the side elevation
Side slopes: 2:1 or flatter (see p.39 for slope calculation)
Stone size: Use a mixture of 2 to 9 inch stone
Width: Dams should span the width of the channel and extend up the sides of the banks
Spacing: Space the dams so that the bottom (toe) of the upstream dam is at the elevation of the top (crest) of the downstream dam. This spacing is equal to the height of the check dam divided by the channel slope.

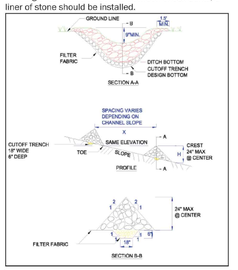
Spacing (in feet) = Height of check dam (in feet) / Slope in channel (ft/ft)

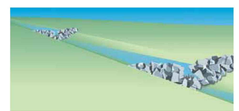
Maintenance:

Remove sediment accumulated behind the dam

as needed to allow channel to drain through the stone check dam and prevent large flows from carrying sediment over the dam.

If significant erosion occurs between check dams, a liner of stone should be installed.





Rock check dams must be installed before excavation or fill activities begin. See "How to install" for spacing directions.

Good installation of temporary rock check dams. The check dams should extend up the sides of the banks. Middle section should be lower than the sides. Clean out sediment as it accumulates. Remove check dams after site and channel are stabilized with vegetation.

Project Reference: 20030bb

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Revisions

No.	Description	Date	By

TAX ID:

Use of These Drawings

1. Unless otherwise noted, these Drawings are intended for preliminary planning, coordination with other disciplines or utilities, and/or approval from the regulatory authorities. They are not intended as construction drawings unless noted as such or marked approved by a regulatory authority.

2. By use of these drawings for construction of the Project, the Owner represents that they have reviewed, approved, and accepted the drawings, obtained all necessary permits, and have met with all applicable parties/disciplines, including but not limited to, the Engineer and the Architect, to insure these plans are properly coordinated including, but not limited to, contract documents, specifications, owner/contractor agreements, building and mechanical plans, private and public utilities, and other pertinent permits for construction.

3. Owner and Architect, are responsible for final design and location of buildings shown, including an area measured a minimum five (5) feet around any building and coordinating final utility connections shown on these plans.

4. Prior to using these plans for construction layout, the user shall contact TCE to ensure the plan contains the most current revisions.

5. These Drawings are specific to the Project and are not transferable. As instruments of service, these drawings, and copies thereof, furnished by TCE are its exclusive property. Changes to the drawings may only be made by TCE. If errors or omissions are discovered, they shall be brought to the attention of TCE immediately.

6. It is the User's responsibility to ensure this copy contains the most current revisions.

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KRISTEN M. MILOFF
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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Project Title

Eastern Development Corporation
40 Plains Road
Pittsford, Vermont

Sheet Title

Erosion Prevention & Sediment Control

Date:	11/08/2018
Scale:	
Project Number:	16-021
Drawn By:	
Project Engineer:	AAD
Approved By:	
Field Book:	336 + 211

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