

Erosion Control Guidelines For Common Sites

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) is important for individual, small (less than one acre) building lots to protect water bodies as well as neighboring lands. It is estimated that one and a half dump trucks of soil wash into nearby lakes or streams for every acre of land under construction IF adequate ESC practices are not in place.

This guideline summarizes minimum requirements for stormwater control on simple, common sites that – if consistently maintained – should help to meet EPA's Phase II Stormwater Discharge requirements under the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES).

Generally, there are three tasks that need to be accomplished including:

1. cover practices – helps protect erosion in the first instance by protecting the soil;
2. structural practices – structural controls that help to reduce erosion, control runoff, or keep sediment on-site; and
3. management steps – maintenance measures that prevent or reduce erosion potential and ensure the proper functioning of erosion and sediment control practices.

For more information or the source – NYS Standards and Specifications For Erosion and Sediment Control, March 2003.