

Stormwater Construction Inspector's Field Guide

A Field Guide to Complement the
MPCA Stormwater Construction
Inspection Guide

November 2018

Acknowledgments

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Comments welcome

This is the first edition of the Field Inspection Guide. We welcome comments and suggestions on how it might be changed in future editions to better assist stormwater inspectors. Send comments to:

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Purpose of this Field Guide

This Field Guide should be used as a complement to the MPCA Stormwater Construction Inspection Guide. The Inspection Guide describes how to conduct stormwater inspections at small construction sites and discusses inspector responsibilities, preparation, inspection procedures, report writing, tips on inspecting BMPs, and enforcement.

This Field Guide takes the information on inspection procedures and tips on inspecting BMPs from the Inspection Guide, and makes it available in a smaller field guide format for use during inspections.

Inspection Procedures

An on-site construction site inspection will typically consist of the following components, followed by the development of an inspection report:

- Pre-Inspection Preparation
- Entry
- Records Review
- Site Inspection
- Exit Interview

Pre-Inspection Preparation

Plan your inspections by targeting construction sites in priority areas (i.e., sites discharging to special or impaired waters, sites near surface waters, areas undergoing rapid development sites located within environmental justice areas of concern), large construction sites, or sites with a history of compliance problems. Be flexible, and plan your inspections immediately prior to or during anticipated rain events, or immediately following actual rain events (this is the best time to conduct stormwater inspections!). Identify more inspection candidate sites than you can visit in a day so you have back-up sites in case changes occur.

In preparing for an inspection, you should also review available files such as permits, copies of SWPPPs or erosion and sediment control plans, past inspection reports, downstream water quality problems from monitoring/assessment reports, and other correspondence such as

maintenance records on the construction sites you will be inspecting. Copy relevant information that may be useful in the field. This could include past inspection reports in order to verify that problems have been corrected. Use the special waters search on the MPCA website to determine whether any of the construction sites you plan to visit are located near special waters. Discharges to special and impaired waters and wetlands have additional requirements that are described in Section 23 of the permit.

Find all the construction sites you'll be inspecting on a map to plan your day. Group inspections by geographic area when possible to minimize your drive time.

Finally, be prepared for the inspection. Dress for the weather and take appropriate safety gear. Make sure you have the following: inspection credentials, digital camera, copies of inspection forms, copy of the general permit, logbook for taking notes, and personal protective equipment (steel-toed shoes, hard hat, safety vest). Always take extra copies of materials such as the general permit, inspection forms, and application forms.

Always keep safety in mind!

- Use safety equipment such as hard hats, reflective vests, and steel-toed shoes.
 - Maintain safety equipment in good condition and proper working order.
 - Watch where you are walking, and be careful of what is going on overhead.
 - Never enter confined spaces, such as a ditch or manhole, unless properly trained, equipped, and certified.
-

Entry

Before entering the construction site, observe the surroundings and various stages of construction. Note areas for in-depth review and any clear violations. This is also a good time to view construction site vehicle exit locations and perimeter controls. Indicate on the inspection form the date/time and weather conditions (e.g., light rain, sunny, some rain in previous 24 hours).

What if the site does not have a permit?

If a construction site disturbing more than one acre has not applied for the stormwater permit, notify your Regional MPCA construction contact. Explain to the site representative the requirement to apply for a stormwater permit, continue the inspection, and leave compliance assistance materials such as a copy of the permit and application. Note the violation on the inspection form.

When entering the site, review all postings and then ask for the owner or contractor who's name is on the application. If these people are not available, ask to speak with someone who is familiar with the construction site's SWPPP. Always note the names of the individuals with whom you meet. Present your credentials and explain the purpose of your inspection. Inform the individual of the typical sequence of events for the inspection (introductions, file review, site tour, exit interview, report preparation, delivery and follow-up). Ensure that the construction operator participates during the records review and accompanies you during the inspection. Ask if there are any specific safety issue or requirements for this site.

What to do if denied entry?

Stay calm and explain that the permit provides the MPCA and MPCA representatives with the authority to conduct inspections. Inquire as to why you are denied entry and record this information in your notes. Explain that you will need this information so that you can accurately portray their reasons for denial to your supervisor. Evaluate what they said were their reasons and determine if there are ways you can mitigate their concerns. Many times their concerns are unfounded. In no case should you threaten or indicate that their denial may lead to future punitive penalties.

Records Review

Ask to see a copy of their SWPPP and application for coverage under the general stormwater permit, including a copy of all the contractor's self-inspections. Review it to ensure that it addresses all the requirements in the permit. Specific items in the SWPPP to review and record in your notes include:

- The most recent date of the SWPPP, and who prepared it.
- Primary erosion prevention and sediment control BMPs used on-site.
- Inspection and maintenance records, which are required to be kept with the SWPPP. Operator is required to inspect the site once every seven days and within 24 hours after a rainfall event greater than 0.5 inches in 24 hours.
- Permanent stormwater management practices.
- Pollution prevention practices (especially for fueling, solid waste, hazardous materials, and vehicle washing).
- Discharge points from the project to surface waters and wetlands.

Include in your notes a general narrative of the construction activity (e.g., construction of five single family homes on 2.5 acre parcel). Ask the operator to describe the project as you review the SWPPP. Questions you can ask include:

- How large is the project, how long has construction been underway, and when do you plan to complete construction?
- Do you store or use hazardous materials or waste fluids on-site? Do you refuel vehicles or equipment on-site?
- Does this project include concrete pouring, and how do you handle washout of concrete trucks?
- Does the project have a rain gage, and how do you track rainfall amounts?
- What procedures do you institute in advance of forecasted rain events?

The SWPPP must include a narrative describing the timing for installation of all erosion prevention and sediment control BMPs. The SWPPP must also address construction phasing.

Ask for a copy of the site map and the BMP list to determine if it is specific to the construction site you're inspecting. The site map and BMP list can be marked up during your inspection to indicate locations of potential violations and as a reminder to ensure BMPs are implemented. Remember that these items are enforceable. The permit requires full implementation of the SWPPP.

The SWPPP must be on-site!

Section 20 of the permit requires that "the SWPPP, (original or copies) all changes to it, and inspections and maintenance records must be kept at the site during construction by the Permittee who has operational control of that portion of the site." The SWPPP can be kept in either the field office or in an on-site vehicle.

If the SWPPP is not available, ask why and note the response in your report. There are no legitimate excuses for not having stormwater paperwork on-site and available for review. Inform the construction operator that the permit requires the SWPPP to be on-site and available for review. If issues on-site indicate an in-depth review of the SWPPP is necessary, request that a copy of the SWPPP be submitted to MPCA in the corrective actions.

Remember that SWPPPs are intended to be dynamic documents, with amendments or changes to the SWPPP when (Section 6):

- A change in design, construction, operation, maintenance, weather or seasonal conditions have a significant effect on stormwater discharges
- Inspections indicate the SWPPP is not effective, or
- The SWPPP is not consistent with the terms of the permit.

Discuss with the site contact whether any amendments have been made to the SWPPP. The constantly changing conditions at a construction site (from rough grading to building construction) mean that the BMPs in the SWPPP should change as the site conditions change.

If their SWPPP is not available for review, this will make your inspection more difficult. Ask for a copy of a map of the construction site, if possible, and continue with your inspection. Note the lack of an on-site SWPPP on the inspection form.

Site Inspection

A keen eye, an understanding of the construction sequencing process and accurate documentation are the keys to an effective construction site inspection. Use the inspection form, and take notes regarding the location and condition of BMPs, discharge points, and inlets. Use photos to document concerns/violations and indicate on a rough diagram where the photos were taken. Keep a written log of preliminary findings during your inspection to facilitate your exit interview. Bring extra copies of relevant documents (such as the permit, application form, and construction stormwater permit overview fact sheet) to explain the requirements, and to leave for the construction operator if they need it.

Seasonal Considerations

During frozen ground conditions, construction activity may be suspended. BMPs should be in place, however, inspections may be suspended until runoff occurs at the site or when construction resumes. If possible, conduct inspections during the spring thaw period.

A note about construction activity:

Construction activity, by its very nature, is a “dirty” business. In many cases, land is cleared and graded to conform to the new site requirements. During a rain event, even the best-managed construction sites will look “muddy.” Your role as a construction inspector is to ensure that sediment and other pollutants in stormwater leaving the site do not impact waters of the state. Become familiar with typical construction practices, terminology, and conditions and use this experience during your inspection.

A recommended construction inspection sequence follows:

1. *Plan your inspection*

Review the site map and plan how you will conduct the inspection (this is particularly

important for large construction sites). Identify the significant pollutant sources and BMPs you want to inspect (silt fence installation, sediment basins, slope stabilization, material storage areas, etc.). Consider the direction stormwater will flow as you plan the inspection. Begin your inspection at the low point on the construction site, observing all discharge points and walk up the slope to inspect the rest of the site. Consider the current sequence of construction phasing when planning your inspection.

2. *Inspect discharge points and downstream, off-site areas for signs of impact*

When inspecting discharge points from the site, if it appears that sediment is leaving the site, walk downstream to document the extent of travel and impact on receiving waters or storm drain systems. Make sure you walk “down the street” if necessary to inspect off-site areas for signs of discharge. This is particularly important in areas with existing curbs and gutters. Inspect down-slope municipal catch basin inlets to ensure that they are adequately protected. Note on the inspection form all environmental impacts and document with photographs when possible.

In some limited situations, it may be useful to collect samples of stormwater discharges from construction sites. Contact your MPCA Regional construction stormwater staff contact if you feel sampling may be useful in a specific situation.

3. *Inspect perimeter controls*

Note the type of perimeter controls installed at the site, and whether these have been properly installed and maintained. Inspect the construction exit to determine if there is excessive tracking of sediment from the site. Is there evidence of additional construction exits being used that are not in the SWPPP or are not stabilized?

Check all sediment controls. All storm drains must be protected, temporary stockpiles must have sediment controls, and cannot be placed in surface waters, including stormwater conveyances.

4. *Compare BMPs in the SWPPP with construction site conditions*

Are all BMPs required by the SWPPP in place? Are additional BMPs needed? Evaluate whether BMPs have been adequately installed and maintained (see page 12 for more information on inspecting BMPs). Describe in your notes the potential violations and their location. Look for areas where BMPs are needed, but are missing and are not included in the SWPPP.

5. *Inspect disturbed areas not currently being worked*

All exposed soil areas must have stabilization initiated immediately whenever any construction activity has permanently or temporarily ceased on any portion of the site and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days. Disturbed areas that have not been worked for two weeks must be seeded with temporary vegetation if they will not be worked during the following week, i.e., disturbed areas should be seeded after three weeks if they are not being actively worked. Unseeded and/or unmulched bare soil areas that have been “dormant” for two weeks or more should be noted (see vegetative stabilization on page 21).

6. *Inspect areas with final stabilization.*

Inspect any stabilized areas to ensure that excessive erosion is not occurring. Estimate whether the site has been stabilized with uniform perennial vegetative cover with a density of 70% over the entire pervious area. Temporary BMPs in areas with final stabilization must be removed and sediment must be cleaned out of all conveyances and temporary sediment basins that will be used as permanent water quality management basins. Areas where temporary BMPs have been removed should be stabilized and seeded.

Guidance on inspecting individual BMPs is discussed on page 12.

Common compliance problems at construction sites

The following compliance problems are commonly found at small construction sites. Keep these common problems in mind as you conduct inspections.

Problem #1 – No temporary or permanent cover

All exposed soil areas must be stabilized no later than 14 days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased. Ask the contractor when particular exposed slopes were last worked to help you determine if there is compliance.

Problem #2 – No sediment controls on site

The permit requires established sediment control practices (e.g., sediment traps/basins, down-gradient silt fences or sediment barriers, check dams, etc.) on down-gradient perimeters before up-gradient land disturbing activities begin.

Problem #3 – No sediment control for temporary stock piles

Temporary stockpiles must have silt fence or other effective sediment controls, and cannot be placed in surface waters (or curb and gutter systems).

Problem #4 – No inlet protection

All storm drain inlets that receive a discharge from the construction site must be protected before construction begins, and must be maintained until the site is stabilized. Inlet protection may be removed for a particular inlet if a specific safety concern has been identified. Written correspondence must be documented in the SWPPP or available within 72 hours upon request.

Problem #5 – No BMPs to minimize vehicle tracking on to the road

Vehicle exits must use BMPs such as stone pads, concrete or steel wash racks, or equivalent systems to prevent vehicle tracking of sediment.

Problem #6 – Sediment on the road

If BMPs are not adequately keeping sediment off the street, then the permit requires tracked sediment to be removed (e.g., street sweeping).

Problem #7 – Improper solid waste or hazardous materials management

Solid waste must be disposed of properly, and hazardous materials (including oil, gasoline, and paint) must be properly stored (which includes secondary containment).

Problem #8 – Dewatering at the construction site

Typically dewatering occurs where building footings are being constructed. Have measures been taken to ensure that the pumped discharge is not causing erosion? Is the discharge turbid and if so is it treated before discharging from the site? Has ditching been used to dewater and if so is that water resulting in the discharge of sediment causing water quality impairments?

Problem #9 – Concrete washout

All liquid and solid wastes generated by concrete washout operations must be contained in a leak-proof containment facility or impermeable liner. Area must have a sign.

Taking photographs

A digital camera is extremely useful during an inspection. Take digital photographs to document your findings and provide a site overview as you write your report. Take photos of the site entry sign, all potential violations, and a general view(s) of the construction site. Be certain to photograph impacts to waters of the state and try to document with photos that the construction project is the only source of the impact (not other upstream sources), so take shots above and below the project at the impacted waterbody. Remember that you do not need to incorporate all of the photos you take into your inspection report. Photograph model BMPs that could be useful as an example to other construction operators.

On the site map, indicate approximate locations of where you took photos, and the direction of the photograph. Keep notes for each photograph you take, as you need to describe the potential violation in your report.

When taking a photograph, make sure you keep perspective in mind. If the viewer will have difficulty understanding how large something is (for example, a rill/gully), then use a prop such as a person, hardhat or other object for perspective.

Exit Interview

Prior to conducting your exit interview, break away from the assembled group to gather your thoughts and prepare a list of preliminary findings. Review the inspection forms and determine the severity of any identified deficiencies. It is best to lead off your exit interview with one or more positive comments regarding the site and then list your negative findings in order of severity. Therefore, come up with a few positive examples of what they are doing right.

Debrief the person in charge. Explain that the results of the inspection are preliminary and are not final until all documents and photos have been reviewed and a supervisor has reviewed your report. Explain the identified deficiencies and any areas of concern (parts of SWPPP are missing, inspections are not being done, silt fence was down, etc.). Where possible, cite the section of the permit that requires these missing practices. While it is important that you provide a comprehensive site assessment, it is acceptable to indicate that you are uncertain about certain deficiencies/points and that additional review is required.

Leave copies of any compliance assistance information, such as the MPCA fact sheets “Overview of Minnesota’s NPDES/SDS Construction Stormwater Permit” or “Sediment and Erosion Control for New Homeowners.” Share information on permit compliance, and direct them to contact the MPCA office (contact phone numbers are noted on the bottom of the inspection forms), or explain how to obtain technical guidance materials.

Lastly, don’t tell the construction operator which BMP to use. Explain the problem or the permit requirement that must be met, and describe how other construction sites have addressed typical problems. It’s OK to tell the construction operator about what typically works and what doesn’t work in the field, but don’t specify the BMP to use (especially if it is a proprietary BMP). Ultimately, it is up to the construction operator to decide which BMPs to use.

Tips on inspecting BMPs

The following BMPs are commonly implemented on small construction sites. Tips for inspecting these BMPs are described on the following pages. For more information on BMPs, see:

- *Minnesota Stormwater Manual*
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-stormwater-manual>
- *Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual: Stormwater Best Management Practices for Cold Climates*, Metropolitan Council, 2001.
<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Resources-Management/Water-Quality-Management-Key-Roles.aspx>
(Download the zipped version of the CD-ROM version of the manual by clicking on the link at the bottom of the webpage under the *Urban Small Sites Best Management Practice Manual*.)

The BMPs are generally organized by the order an inspector will typically encounter them in the field when conducting an inspection. The BMPs in this list were selected because they are commonly found on construction sites disturbing less than five acres of soil.

Storm drain inlet protection

Storm drain inlet protection prevents sediment from entering a storm drain by surrounding or covering the inlet with a filtering material. This allows sediment-laden runoff to pond and settle before entering the storm drain.

Several types of filters are commonly used for inlet protection: silt fence, sand bags or block and gravel. The type of filter used will depend on inlet type (curb inlet, drop inlet), slope, and amount of flow. Many different commercial inlet filters are also available. Some commercial inlet filters are placed in front of or on top of an inlet, others are placed inside the inlet and under the grate.

Permit requirements:

- All storm drain inlets must be protected by appropriate BMPs during construction until all sources with potential for discharging to the inlet have been stabilized. Inlet protection may

be removed if a specific safety concern has been identified and the permittee(s) have received written correspondence from the jurisdictional authority. (Item 9.7)

- All sediment control BMPs must be inspected to ensure integrity and effectiveness. All nonfunctional BMPs must be repaired, replaced, or supplemented with functional BMPs. (Item 11.4)

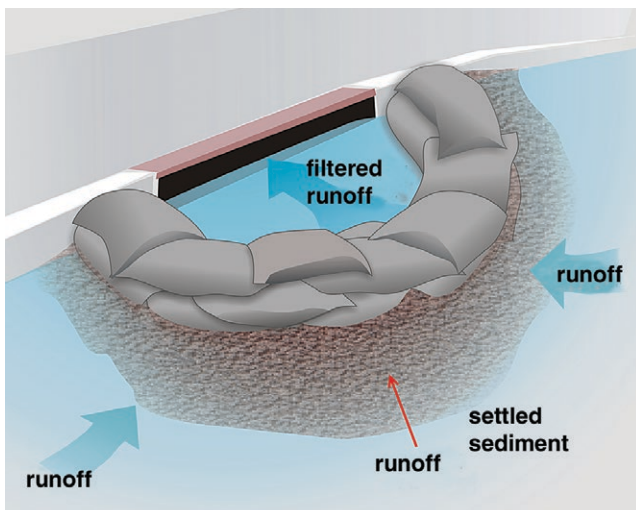


Figure 1. Sand or gravel bags can be used to filter stormwater runoff before entering a catch basin. Commercial products are also available that fit in front of or inside the catch basin.

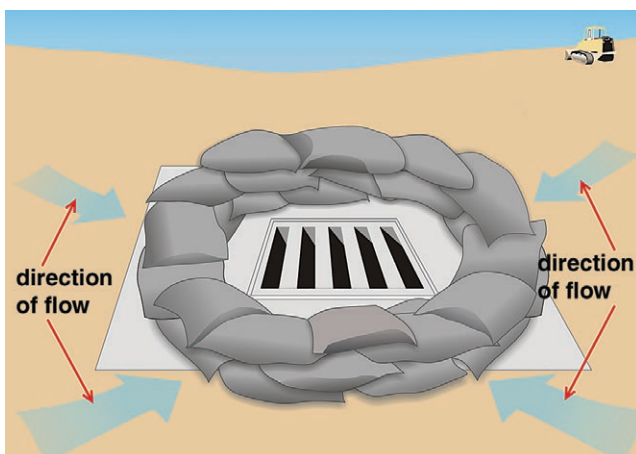


Figure 2. Sand or gravel bags used to protect a drop inlet.

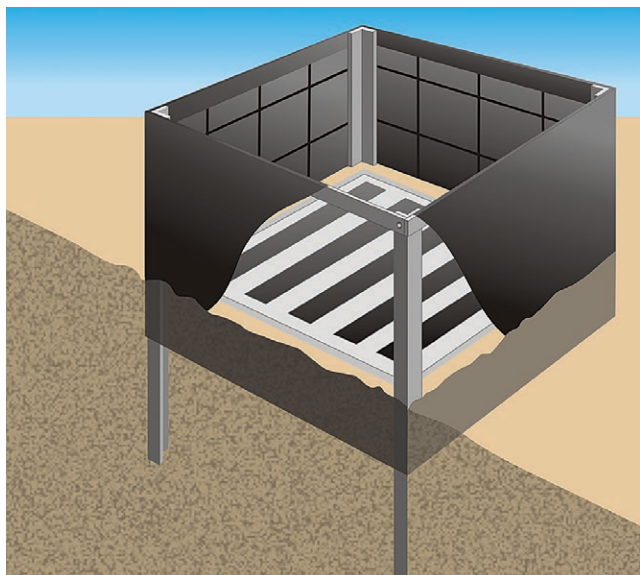


Figure 3. Silt fence can also be used to protect a drop inlet.

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Inlet protection is a secondary BMP. Make sure that erosion controls or additional sediment controls are also in place.
- ✓ The inlet protection should not block the storm drain or cause flooding.
- ✓ Inlet protection should be in place immediately after storm drains are installed (or before land disturbance activities begin in an area with existing storm drains).
- ✓ Sediment accumulation should be removed after each storm event if it impedes flow through the filter.
- ✓ Make sure there are not any “gaps” allowing unfiltered stormwater to enter the inlet.

Stabilized construction exit

A rock construction exit can reduce the amount of sediment transported onto paved roads by vehicles. The construction exit does this by knocking mud off the vehicle tires before the vehicle enters a public road.

Permit requirements:

- Vehicle tracking of sediment from the construction site must be minimized by BMPs

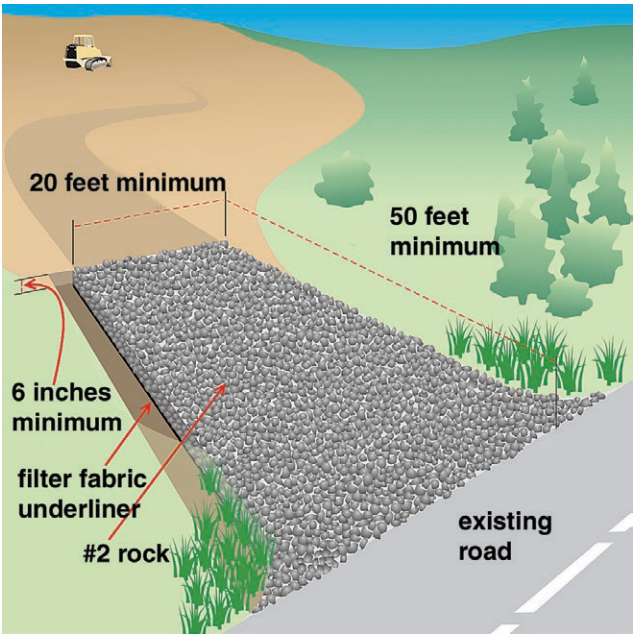


Figure 4. Stabilized construction exit.

such as stone pads, concrete or steel wash racks, or equivalent systems. Street sweeping must be used if such BMPs are not adequate to prevent sediment from being tracked onto the street. (Part IV.C.6)

- Construction site vehicle exit locations must be inspected for evidence of off-site sediment tracking onto paved surfaces. Tracked sediment must be removed from all off-site paved surfaces within 24 hours of discovery, or if applicable, within a shorter time. (Part IV.E.5.d)

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Is there evidence of sediment tracking from the site? (Street sweeping may be necessary if sediment tracking is evident.)
- ✓ Is there evidence that vehicles are leaving the site from other locations, and not using the designated construction exit?
- ✓ Does the aggregate need to be replaced or replenished?
- ✓ Is the construction exit long enough to remove mud from the tires (50 ft. minimum)?

- ✓ Is the site graded away from the construction exit to prevent runoff from leaving the site?

Silt fence/other sediment barrier

A silt fence or sediment filter (such as a fiber roll or wattle) is a down-gradient barrier intended to intercept sheet flow runoff and settle out sediment upslope while allowing runoff to filter through.

Permit requirements:

Sediment control practices must be established on all down-gradient perimeters before any upgradient land disturbing activities begin. These practices must remain in place until final stabilization has been established (Item 9.2). All silt fences must be repaired, replaced, or supplemented when they become nonfunctional or the sediment reaches 1/2 of the height of the fence. These repairs must be made within 24 hours of discovery, or as soon as field conditions allow access. (Item 11.4)

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Is the silt fence installed along the contour (on a level horizontal plane)?
- ✓ Are the ends turned up (J-hooks. Fig. 7) to help pond the water behind the filter?
- ✓ Is the filter trenched in with the stakes on the downhill side (trench should be 6 inches deep by 6 inches wide)?
- ✓ Has sediment been removed when it reaches 1/2 the height of the barrier?
- ✓ Filters should not be installed where concentrated flow is expected.

Key inspection area: Inadequate installation

- Soil should be compacted after trenching.
- The stakes used to hold the silt fence should be on the down-slope side.

Key inspection area: Improper placement

- A silt fence is not adequate protection for steep, long slopes. The drainage area should be no greater than ¼ acre per 100 feet of fence; i.e., silt fences should be spaced 60-110 ft. apart on long slopes.

Key inspection area: Maintenance

- Torn or degraded silt fence fabric should be replaced immediately.

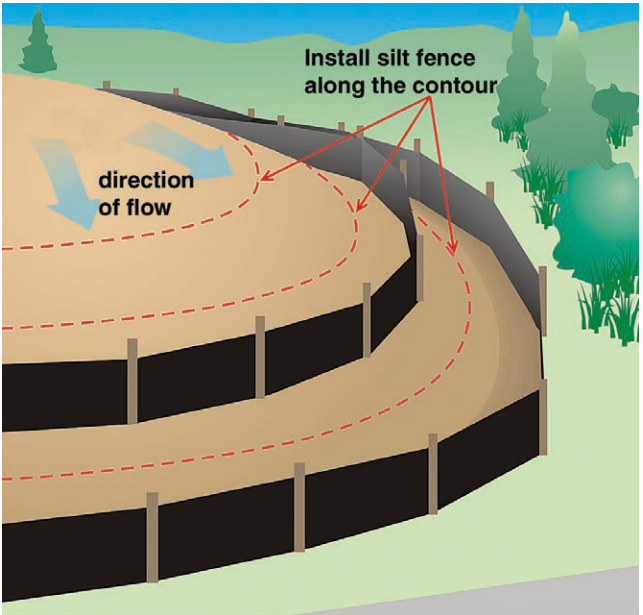


Figure 5. Illustration of silt fence installed along the contour.

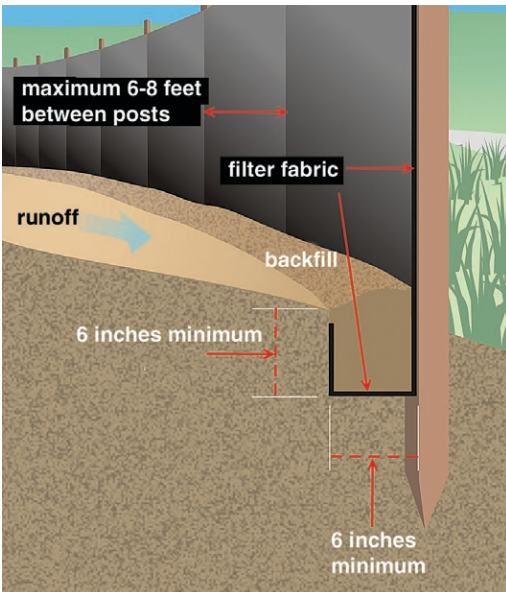


Figure 6. Detail of silt fence installation.

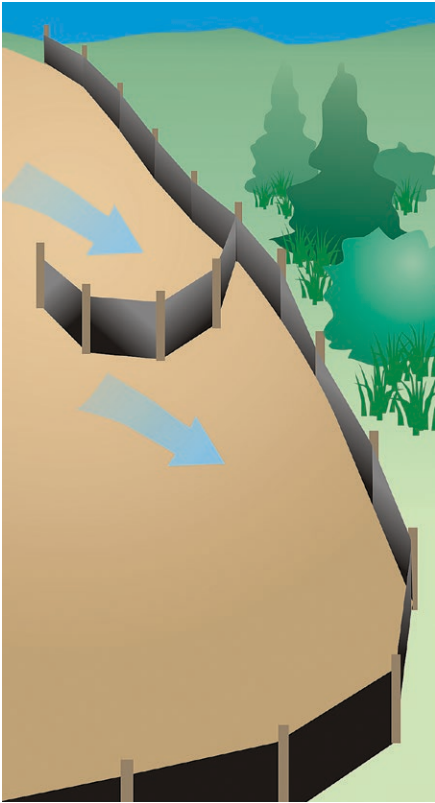


Figure 7. Illustration of "J-hooks" used during silt fence installation.

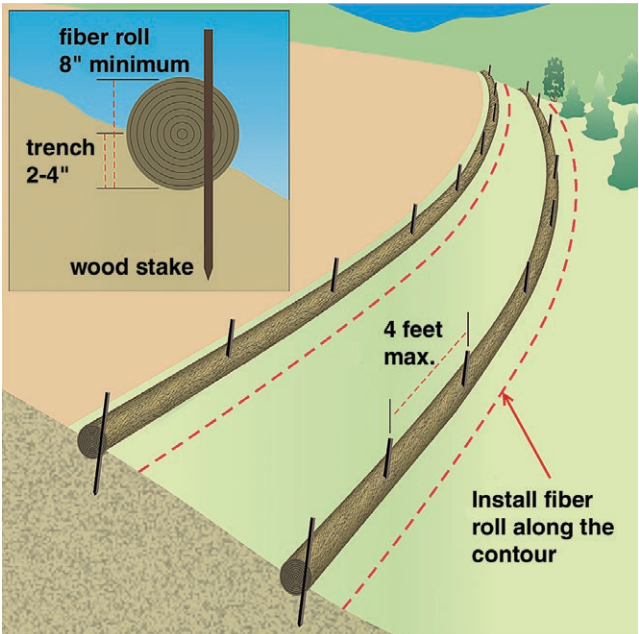


Figure 8. Fiber roll installation and detail.

Diversion ditches/berms

Diversion ditches or berms direct off-site runoff away from unprotected slopes or direct sediment-laden runoff to a sediment trapping structure. A diversion ditch can be located at the upslope side of a construction site to prevent surface runoff from entering the disturbed area. Ditches or berms on steeper slopes may need to consider erosive velocities. Also, ensure that the diverted water is released through a stable outlet and does not cause downstream flooding.

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Check to make sure the diversion discharges to a stable outlet or channel.
- ✓ Check to see if diversion ditches and berms have been seeded.
- ✓ Is the diversion eroding? (channel grades should be relatively flat).

Check dams may be necessary if high velocity flows are present.

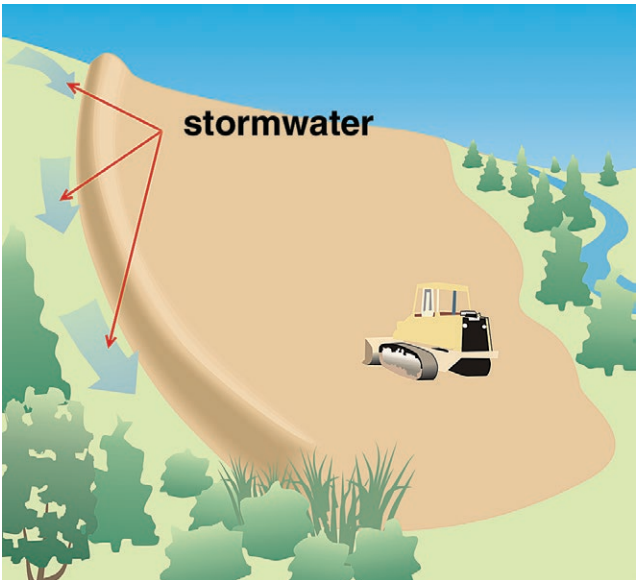


Figure 9. Diversions should be used to divert stormwater away from disturbed areas.

Mats, mulches, and blankets

Mats, mulches, and blankets are used for temporary stabilization and establishing vegetation of disturbed soils. Mats and blankets are typically used on slopes or channels while mulches are effective in helping to protect the soil surface and foster the growth of vegetation.

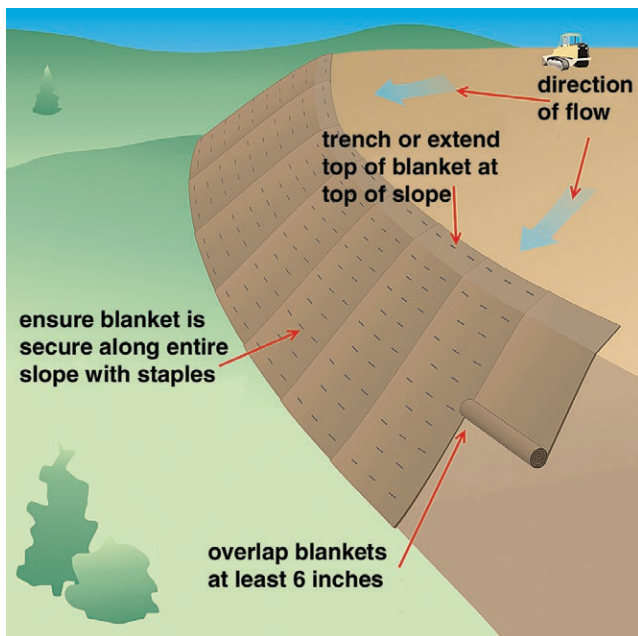


Figure 10. Erosion control blanket.

Inspection tips:

- ✓ The blanket or mat should come into complete contact with the soil.
- ✓ Check that the top of the blanket is trenched-in (there should be no evidence of water flowing under the blanket or mat).
- ✓ Mulch should not be placed in concentrated flow areas.
- ✓ Check to see if erosion is occurring in the mulched area (more mulch may need to be applied).
- ✓ Check blankets and mats to see if sections are overlapped 4-6 inches and staples are 12 inches apart on tops and 24 inches apart down the sides and in the middle.

Temporary sediment trap or pond

A temporary sediment trap or pond is a small, temporary ponding area formed by constructing an earthen embankment with an outlet across a swale. Temporary sediment traps are intended to detain sediment-laden runoff from small, disturbed areas long enough to allow the majority (at least 75%) of the sediment to settle out.

Sediment traps are designed for small areas. The volume of the trap should be at least 1,800 cubic feet per acre of contributing drainage.

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Check the location of the sediment trap. Failure of the trap should not pose a risk to life or property.
- ✓ Sediment in the trap should be removed after it reaches about 1/2 the design volume.
- ✓ The trap should not be installed in a main stream or near culvert outlets.
- ✓ Check the outlet for needed maintenance.

Vegetative stabilization

Vegetative stabilization includes temporary or permanent seeding and sodding. Vegetative stabilization helps prevent erosion at construction sites by reestablishing vegetation on exposed soils. Native and noninvasive species are highly preferred to introduced grasses.

Permit requirement (Item 8.4):

All exposed soil areas must have stabilization initiated immediately and completed no later than 14 calendar days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased.

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Are all exposed soil areas stabilized?
- ✓ Check for signs of erosion in vegetated areas.
- ✓ Concentrated flows should not be allowed across newly seeded slopes.
- ✓ If late in the year, a slope may need to be mulched rather than seeded.

Permanent stormwater management system

For projects that replace pervious surfaces with one or more acres of cumulative impervious surface, a permanent stormwater management system that treats 1 inch of runoff from the new impervious surface is required. Permittees must first consider volume reduction practices on-site (e.g., infiltration or other) when designing the permanent stormwater treatment system. The permittee may consider a wet sedimentation basin, filtration basin or regional pond if the permit prohibits infiltration as described in item 16.14 through item 16.21. See Section 15 of the permit for additional information.

For those areas of the project where there is no feasible way to meet the requirements for the water quality volume, then the permittee must document the reasons in the SWPPP.

Documentation should be provided in the SWPPP.

The construction operator can choose one of the following approaches to meet this requirement:

- *Wet sedimentation basin:* Permanent storage volume (dead storage) of 1,800 cubic feet of storage per acre that drains to the basin must be provided. The water quality volume (live storage) must be discharged at no more than 5.66 cubic feet per second (CFS) per acre of surface area of the pond. The water quality volume treated should be 1 inch times the new impervious surface. (Section 18)
- *Infiltration/filtration:* Treatment can include infiltration basins and trenches, rainwater gardens, sand filters, bioretention areas, and enhanced swales. The water quality volume treated should be 1 inch times the new impervious surface. (Section 16 & 17)
- *Regional Ponds:* Written authorization to discharge to a regional pond must be included in the SWPPP, and the pond must meet the permit's design requirements. (Section 19)
- *Combination of the above practices:* SWPPP must document the volume that each practices addresses.

- *Alternative method:* An alternative Method must be approved in advance by MPCA. Check the SWPPP to see if approval and additional documentation is provided.

Solid waste/hazardous materials management

Section 12 of the permit requires construction sites to implement pollution prevention measures. At a minimum, sites are required to:

- Properly dispose of solid waste.
- Properly store hazardous material.
- Limit external washing of vehicles and contain runoff.
- Designate a site for concrete washout and place signs.

Permit requirements:

- *Solid Waste:* Collected sediment, asphalt and concrete millings, floating debris, paper, plastic, fabric, construction and demolition debris and other wastes must be disposed of properly and must comply with MPCA disposal requirements. (Item 12.5)
- *Hazardous Materials:* Oil, gasoline, paint and any hazardous substances must be properly stored, including secondary containment, to prevent spills, leaks or other discharge. Access to storage areas must be restricted to prevent vandalism. Storage and disposal of hazardous waste must be in compliance with MPCA regulations. (Item 12.4)

External washing of trucks and other construction vehicles must be limited to a defined area of the site. Runoff must be contained and waste properly disposed of.

Concrete washout onsite: all liquid and solid wastes generated by concrete washout operations must be contained in a leak-proof containment facility or impermeable liner. A compacted clay liner that does not allow washout liquids to enter ground water is considered an impermeable liner. The liquid and solid wastes must not contact the ground, and there must be runoff from the concrete washout operations or areas. Liquid and solid wastes must be disposed of properly and in compliance

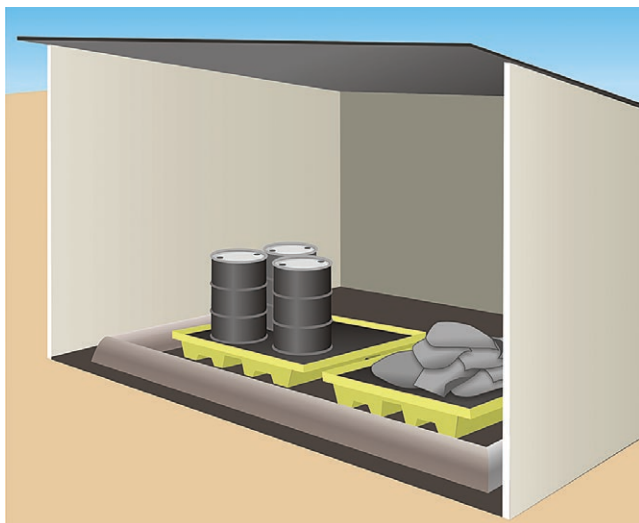


Figure 11. Example of hazardous materials storage (doors removed for illustrative purposes only). Access to hazardous materials must be restricted.

with MPCA regulations. A sign must be installed adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facilities. (Item 12.9)

Inspection tips:

- ✓ Does the construction site have dumpsters or other containers for debris and solid waste?
- ✓ Is there evidence of solid waste or debris in the storm drain system?
- ✓ Are oil, gasoline and paint properly stored?
- ✓ Does the construction operator allow vehicles to be washed on-site?
- ✓ Are solid waste and hazardous materials stored away from receiving waters and catch basins?
- ✓ Is there evidence of hazardous materials being disposed of in the solid waste bins?
- ✓ Is there evidence that the solid waste or hazardous materials containers have leaked?
- ✓ Are vehicles or equipment fueled on-site? Is this area bermed or away from receiving waters and storm drains?
- ✓ Are all hazardous materials containers properly labeled?
- ✓ Are concrete washouts installed properly away from receiving waters and storm drains?

- ✓ Is there a sign adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facility.

NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity Violation Citations

Citation	Permit section or rule
No permit	Minn. R. 70090.2010 Subparts 1, 2, 3 (permit required, permit application deadline, and compliance requirements for unpermitted construction, respectively)

Change of Coverage Item 3.7

Erosion Control Practices during Construction

- a) All exposed soil must be stabilized no later than 14 days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased Item 8.4
- b) Normal wetted perimeter of drainage system – 200' within 24 hours of connecting Item 8.6
- c) Energy dissipation (temp. or perm.) within 24 hours Item 8.9

Sediment Control Practices during Construction

- a) Lacking sediment control practices
Overloaded systems eliminated, no unbroken slopes 75' @ 3:1> Item 9.3
- b) Temporary sediment basin required Item 9.13
- c) Inlet BMPs not functional Item 9.7
- d) Perimeter controls/soil disturbance Item 9.2

Inspections and Maintenance

- a) Maintenance of erosion and sediment temporary/permanent cover Item 11.4
- b) Temporary sediment basin 1/2-volume Item 11.8
- c) Recovery of sediment in waters (name water body) Item 11.5
 - Duty to notify, avoid and recover water pollution Minn. Stat. § 115.061
 - Nuisance conditions prohibited (define discharge) Minn. R. 7050.0210, subp. 2

d) Vehicle tracking Item 11.6

Inspections and Records Retention Section 11

a) SWPPP development required Section 5

SWPPP requirements: Item 5.2

– BMPs/locations procedures Item 5.5

– Site map/flow arrows Item 5.9

– Phased areas Item 5.18

– Surface waters/wetlands 1 mile Item 5.10

– Methods for final stabilization Item 5.17

b) Inspections (specifically note failed maintenance) Section 11

c) Training requirement documentation Item 21.2

Permanent Stormwater Treatment

>One (1) acre impervious, permanent treatment required Section 15

a) Wet sedimentation basin Section 18

– Regional ponds Section 19

– Infiltration/filtration (hydro analysis) Section 16/
Section 17

– Alternative methods, 90-day review,
monitoring

b) Pretreatment required Item 16.6/
Item 17.5

c) Dewatering Section 10

d) Turbid discharges off site or waters of the state Minn. R. 7050. 0210, subp. 2

e) Wetland impacts: authorization and mitigation

Management Pollution Prevention

a) Solid waste disposed of properly Item 12.5

b) Hazardous materials in secondary containment and restricted access Item 12.4

c) Defined areas for construction vehicles external washing Item 12.8

d) Defined concrete washout on site and with a sign Item 12.9

Letter of Warning (LOW)

A notice to a regulated party (RP) that documents violations discovered during an inspection, complaint follow-up or review of submittals. The LOW typically includes a reference of the statute, rule, permit condition or checklist that are violated. The LOW typically requires the regulated party to complete specific corrective actions to return the facility to compliance. The LOW usually gives a regulated party between 7-30 days to complete required corrective actions.

Request for Information (RFI)

A notice to an RP requiring information. Occasionally additional information is required to determine the status of compliance or for an RP to respond to violations discovered. This information can be used to determine if elevated enforcement (including penalties) is appropriate.

Corrective Actions (LOW or RFI)

Requirements to correct field conditions and to come into compliance with the permit, statute or rules and must be responded to in the period noted on this field report. This response (including any lack of response) is considered by the MPCA and future enforcement for the violations discovered.

Temporary, Permanent Sediment Basin Checklist

Site Name/Location _____ Date _____

Permanent – temporary (circle) sedimentation basins: (location/ID) _____

- Required basin installed (> 10 acres/ single point (T) or >1 acre new impervious (P)? Yes **No**
- Does basin have energy dissipation for outlet? Yes **No**
- Stabilized emergency overflow outlet? Yes **No**
- Was basin constructed /operational concurrent with construction? Yes **No**
- Are slopes stabilized with perm cover or temp erosion protection? Yes **No**
- Is basin connected to surface waters? Yes
Name/description waters: _____
- Was discharge-connection stabilized within 24 hours of connecting? Yes **No**
- Dewatering: Onsite to a temp. settling basin? Yes **No**
If offsite, is water turbid? **Yes** **No**
- If no settling basin, was appropriate BMPs for turbidity and scour applied? Yes **No**
- Is discharge from site creating a nuisance conditions or WQ violations? **Yes** **No**

Observations:

Permanent – temporary (circle) sedimentation basins: (location/ID) _____

- Required basin installed (> 10 acres/ single point (T) or >1 acre new impervious (P)? Yes **No**
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Observations:

