When stormwater drains off a construction site, it carries sediment and other pollutants that can harm lakes, streams, and wetlands. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a one-acre construction site can lose as much as 20 to 150 tons of soil every year due to erosion and stormwater runoff.

What can you do to protect receiving waters from pollution?

See the 10 Steps to Stormwater Pollution Prevention inside of this pamphlet to learn ways to minimize sediment from leaving your construction site. By following these steps, you can help keep our water clean!

EXAMPLE: You need a permit if you are working on one 0.3-acre lot that is part of a 5-acre development.

Subdivision registration is available for sites that are within a common plan of development that already has permit coverage.

You need a construction stormwater permit if your project disturbs:

- One or more acres of soil
- Less than one acre, but part of a larger plan of more than one acre

Apply for your construction stormwater permit BEFORE construction begins!

Online permit applications:

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/construction-stormwater
10 Steps to Stormwater Pollution Prevention on Small Residential Construction Sites

NOTE: This graphic does not address post-construction stormwater treatment permit requirements

1. Protect Any Areas Reserved for Vegetation or Infiltration and Preserve Existing Trees
   If you will be installing infiltration-based features such as rain gardens or bioswales, make sure these areas are designated as off limits to avoid compaction.
   Save time and money by preserving existing mature trees during construction. Preserving mature trees minimizes the amount of soil that needs to be stabilized once construction is complete, and minimizes the amount of runoff during and after construction activity.

2. Stockpile Your Soil
   MPCA’s CGP requires operators to preserve native topsoil on site unless infeasible and protect all soil storage piles from run-on and runoff. For smaller stockpiles, covering the entire pile with a tarp may be sufficient.

3. Protect Construction Materials from Run-On and Runoff
   At the end of every workday and during precipitation events, provide cover for materials that could leach pollutants.

4. Designate Waste Disposal Areas
   Clearly identify separate waste disposal areas on site for hazardous waste, construction waste, and domestic waste by designating with signage, and protect from run-on and runoff.

5. Install Perimeter Controls on Downhill Lot Line
   Install perimeter controls such as sediment filter logs or silt fences around the downhill boundaries of your site. Make sure to remove accumulated sediment whenever it has reached halfway up the control.

6. Install Inlet Controls
   Sediment control logs, gravel barriers, and sand or rock bags are options for effective inlet controls. Make sure to remove accumulated sediment whenever the device becomes nonfunctional.

7. Install a Concrete/Stucco Washout Basin
   Designate a leak-proof basin lined with plastic for washing out used concrete and stucco containers. Never wash excess stucco or concrete residue down a storm drain or into a stream!

8. Maintain a Stabilized Exit Pad
   Minimize sediment track out from vehicles exiting your site by maintaining an exit pad made of crushed rock spread over geotextile fabric, a shaker rack, or a wash rack at the construction site exit. If sediment track-out occurs, remove deposited sediment within 24 hours of discovery.

9. Keep an Up-to-Date Copy of Your SWPPP on Site
   Keep a copy of your complete and up-to-date SWPPP, including site maps showing where each BMP is or will be installed, and records of the site inspections completed by a trained inspector on site and easily accessible.

10. Site Stabilization
    Immediately stabilize exposed portions of the site whenever construction work will stop for 14 or more days, even if work is only temporarily stopped. Remember, final stabilization is required prior to terminating permit coverage.
    Keep in mind that temporary or permanent stabilization must be completed within 7 days if your project is within 1 mile of a special or impaired water.

Graphic courtesy US EPA. Adapted by MPCA.