

Wheel Wash



What is it?

A wheel wash reduces the amount of sediment transported onto paved roads by vehicles.

They should be installed on larger building and construction sites or when the stabilised site access is not preventing sediment from being tracked off the site.

Why is it important?

Sediment generated from erosion on building and construction sites can be a major source of pollution to local waterways. Follow the practices discussed in this fact sheet and you will control sediment run-off from your site, meet your legal requirements and help protect our waterways.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Installing the control measures:

- 1) Identify the best location to place the wheel wash. It should be incorporated with the stabilised site access (**see Fact Sheet 12**).
- 2) Construct a pad by evenly spreading a 200 mm layer of coarse aggregate or recycled concrete greater than 40 mm in size (crushed sandstone is not suitable) at a minimum depth of 300 mm.
- 3) Install a wash rack that is suitable for the anticipated traffic and weight loads.
- 4) The water used to wash the wheels of the vehicles shall not be discharged into stormwater system at any time. Provide a drainage channel that will convey the runoff from the wash area to a suitable on-site sediment control measure i.e. sediment basin (**see Fact Sheet 17**), sediment settling tank, or a flat vegetated area.
- 5) Ensure that the drainage channel used to transport the sediment to the sediment control measure is of adequate size and proper gradient to carry the wash runoff.
- 6) Make sure that the sediment control measure is also of adequate size.
- 7) Use hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles to prevent hoses from being left on.
- 8) Require all employees, subcontractors and others that leave the site with mud or dirt caked tyres and undercarriages to use the wash facilities.
- 9) If weeds and plant disease are an issue for your site refer to "*Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control 2004*" from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, Forestry Tasmania and the Agricultural Contractors Association of Tasmania.

Fact Sheet 13

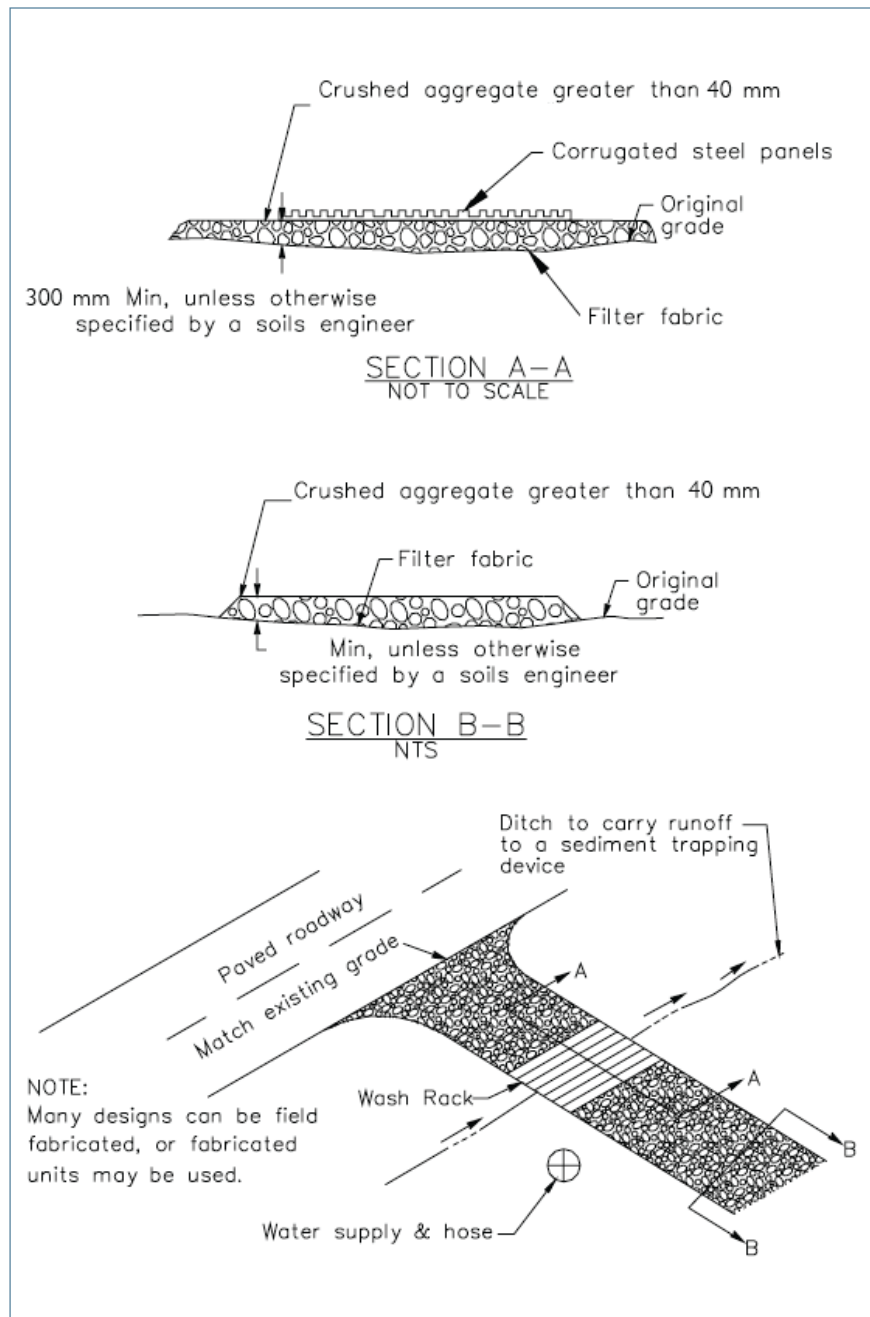


Figure 13 A: Wheel wash design.

Maintaining the control measures:

The wheel wash should be inspected weekly and after a major rainfall event. Remove accumulated sediment from the wash rack to maintain system performance. This sediment should be collected and may need to be disposed to landfill.

List of fact sheets

1. Soil & Water Management on Large Building & Construction Sites
2. Soil & Water Management on Standard Building & Construction Sites
3. Soil & Water Management Plans
4. Dispersive Soils – High Risk of Tunnel Erosion
5. Minimise Soil Disturbance
6. Preserve Vegetation
7. Divert Up-slope Water
8. Erosion Control Mats & Blankets
9. Protect Service Trenches & Stockpiles
10. Early Roof Drainage Connection
11. Scour Protection – Stormwater Pipe Outfalls & Check Dams
12. Stabilised Site Access
- 13. Wheel Wash**
14. Sediment Fences & Fibre Rolls
15. Protection of Stormwater Pits
16. Manage Concrete, Brick & Tile Cutting
17. Sediment Basins
18. Dust Control
19. Site Revegetation

Remember:

Everyone working on building and construction sites has a responsibility to prevent pollution. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the site supervisor. If the site supervisor cannot be contacted, workers should immediately notify the local council so they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

Acknowledgement:

Figure 13A after California Stormwater Quality Association 2003 "California Stormwater BMP Handbook Construction".

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