

Soil & Water Management on Standard Building & Construction Sites



What is this?

A general overview of sediment and erosion control measures that are typically required for single residential building lots including when certain control measures should be installed. Useful for planning and for determining what practices might be suitable for your site. For further details about each of the control measures mentioned go to the relevant fact sheet in the series.

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 minimise erosion and control sediment run-off from your site, meet your legal requirements and help protect our waterways.

Fact Sheet 2

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

The timing of works and installation of control measures has a major influence on how effective soil and water management is in reducing on-site erosion and the amount of sediment that is carried off-site.

Before starting site works plan to:

- 1) Schedule earthworks in phases throughout the project so that the ground is disturbed for the shortest time possible (**see Fact Sheet 5**).
- 2) Avoid stripping and excavating until all necessary permits, licences and approvals have been obtained and you are ready to start work.
- 3) Install erosion and sediment control measures in accordance with an approved Soil and Water Management Plan (if required) (**see Fact Sheet 3**).

Install erosion and sediment control measures in sequence:

- 1) Choose a single, stabilised site access point (**see Fact Sheet 12**).
- 2) Install sediment fences or fibre rolls at the low end of the site to trap sediment (**see Fact Sheet 14**).
- 3) Divert up-slope catchment runoff around the site by installing a diversion drain and level spreader (**see Fact Sheet 7**).
- 4) Keep as much vegetation as possible to minimise soil erosion and reduce rainwater running across the site (**see Fact Sheet 6**).
- 5) Designate a location where topsoil and other excavation material will be stockpiled during building and construction. Provide suitable controls to prevent erosion (**see Fact Sheet 9**).
- 6) Stabilise areas of exposed soil with vegetation or erosion control blankets and mats (**see Fact Sheet 8**).
- 7) Protect the nearby stormwater system including any stormwater pits on and below the site from blocking up with sediment (**see Fact Sheet 15**).
- 8) Designate an appropriate location within the site where sediment-generating activities can be managed (e.g. wheel wash, brick cutting) (**see Fact Sheet 16**).

Once site works have commenced:

- 1) Monitor sediment and erosion control measures at least once a week and after each rainfall event.
- 2) Construct service trenches away from where water is likely to concentrate. Try not to have service trenches open any longer than necessary (**see Fact Sheet 9**).
- 3) Prevent clean rainwater running across the site by connecting downpipes to the stormwater system as soon as the roof is on the building frame (**see Fact Sheet 10**).

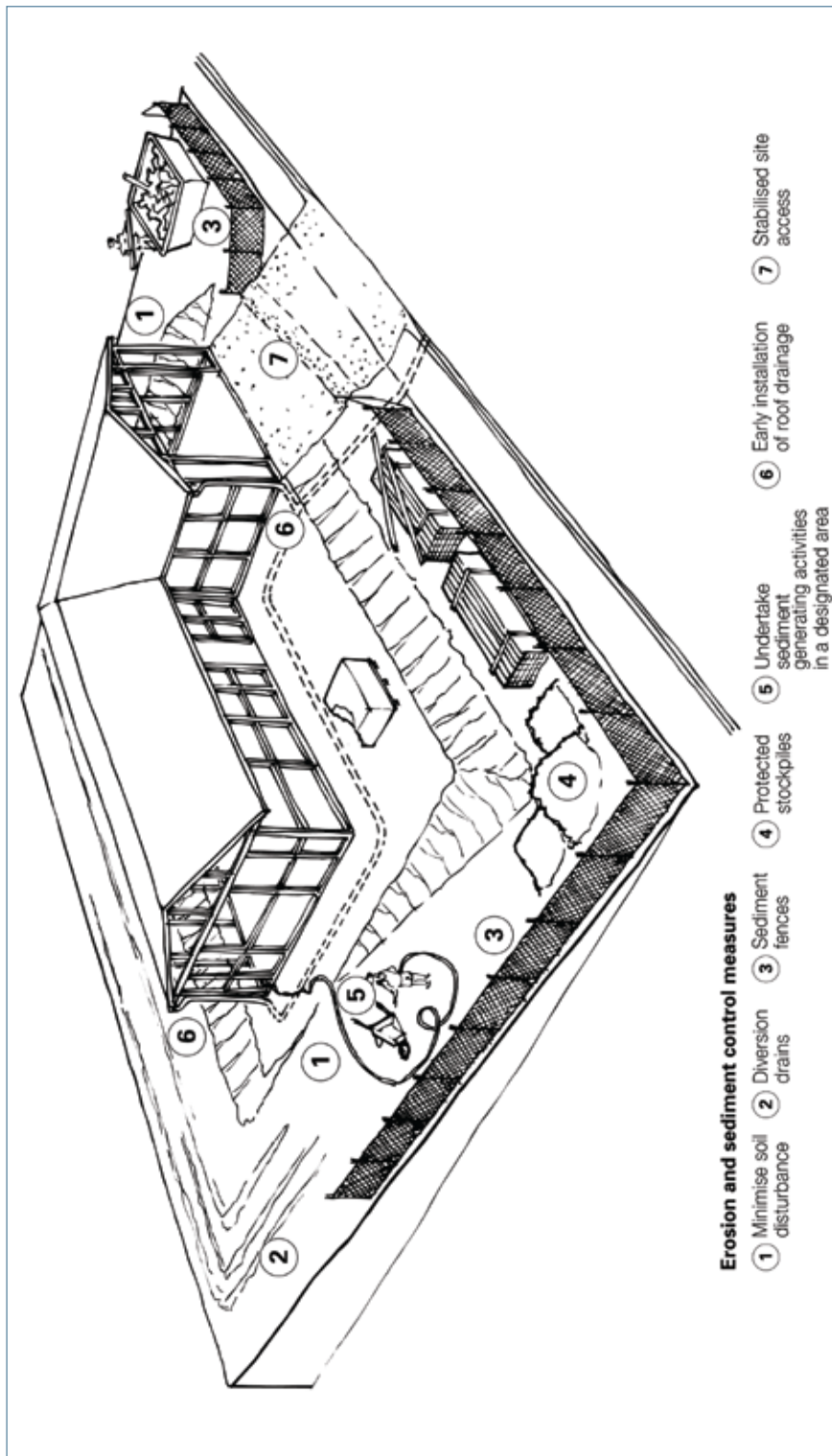


Figure 2A: Appropriate sediment and erosion control measures for single residential building lots.

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 2A was kindly provided by South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership and Brisbane City Council. Text in this brochure has been obtained and modified from the "Do It Right On Site" brochure series, kindly provided by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.

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