**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

**Design considerations:**

1) Avoid the need for earthworks by working with the natural contours of the site. Limit building or construction on steep inclines. On slopes choose a subfloor method that will minimise excavation.
2) Limit the area of soil disturbance (the excavation envelope) to the minimum required, i.e. the house only.
3) Identify suitable sediment and erosion control measures for the excavation envelope.
4) Staging works. Consider scheduling earthworks in phases throughout the project to reduce erosion potential and rehabilitate exposed areas quickly to reduce the amount of soil exposed at one time.
5) Retain as much stripped topsoil as possible for reuse during landscaping and site rehabilitation.

**Before starting site works:**

1) Ensure approval has been granted by council.
2) Identify vegetation, including grass buffers, around the construction site to preserve throughout the development. Mark this as a No Go Area (see Fact Sheet 6) on all work plans, including the Soil and Water Management Plan (if required) (see Fact Sheet 3).
3) Install sediment and erosion control measures.
4) Ensure the operators of earthmoving equipment are aware of the excavation envelope and where stockpiles will be located.

**Once site works have commenced:**

1) Ensure vegetation buffers are protected.
2) Carry out staged excavation and stabilisation (if applicable).
3) Maintain sediment and erosion control measures.
4) Stabilise soil stockpiles by placing sediment fences around their lower edges, cover with fabric, plastic or vegetation.
5) Restrict vehicles and equipment to designated areas.

**Soil roughening:** when using heavy machinery (i.e. non-wheeled vehicles) on exposed slopes.

- **Don’t** smoothly grade slopes with compacted soils. This will increase runoff, is hard to revegetate and is highly susceptible to soil erosion.
- **Don’t** track heavy machinery across the slope. The track marks will create furrows that water will flow down when it rains.
Do track machinery (e.g. excavators) up and down the slope to create grooves from the wheels/or tracks that will catch seeds, fertilizer, and rainfall. The grooves will roughen the surface in a way that will slow runoff over the slope (see Figure 5A).

Maintaining control measures:
If topsoil has been removed it will need to be replaced (see Figure 5B).

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 5A after California Regional Water Quality Control Board 1999 “Erosion & Sediment Control Field Manual”. Figure 5B from Landcom 2004 “Soils & Construction Volume I Managing Urban Stormwater (4th edition)”. 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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