

As we enter the new year, the Watershed Management Division wanted to provide some key reminders regarding common Sediment and Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to better educate contractors on construction site compliance. Sediment and Erosion Control BMPs MUST be installed prior to land-disturbing activities and MUST be maintained throughout the life of the project. More specifically, trees may be cleared before BMPs are installed, but before grubbing/stump removal is to begin, BMPs must be in place. These BMPs are site-specific, but most often include boundary silt fence, construction entrances, and inlet protection at all inlets on-site and downstream inlets off-site.

The following are key reminders pertaining to these commonly used BMPs:

Silt Fence

- Silt fence should be buried at a minimum of 6-inches below disturbed grade. The fabric must be trenched and backfilled to prevent sediment from undermining the fence.
- Provide proper overlaps when joining sections of silt fence to ensure there are no gaps between sections.
- Post spacing shall be at a max of 6 ft. on center.
- Establish a routine of checking the silt fence on your site regularly, especially, immediately following a rain event.
- Remove built-up sediment that has reached more than 1/3 the height of the silt fence. Any deteriorated, torn, or fallen fencing should be replaced.
- Allow the silt fence to remain in place until the site has achieved final stabilization. Site grading and landscaping should occur consecutively.



Construction Entrance

- Minimum dimensions of the entrance for projects not including single-family residential and small commercial are 24-feet wide by 100-feet long and may be modified as necessary to accommodate site constraints.
- Single-family residential and small commercial development must have a construction entrance with minimum dimensions of 15x10-ft. The edges should be tapered out towards the road to prevent tracking of mud at the edge of the entrance.

- The stone utilized should be 2 to 3-inch D_{50} aggregate with a minimum thickness of 6-inches overtop a non-woven geotextile fabric liner.
- If sediment is being tracked off-site, you will either need to refresh your construction entrance or lengthen it.



Inlet Protection

- Inlet protection must be installed at all inlets on-site and downstream inlets off-site.
- For all inlet protection, regardless of type, accumulated sediment must be removed when it reaches 1/3 the height of the inlet protection.
- Inlet protection must be replaced when the material has become worn, damaged, or is ineffective.
- A common issue with inlet protection is that the inlet protection is causing roadway flooding – either the inlet filter is clogged with debris/sediment or the inlet filter is completely blocking the inlet. Replace any clogged/deteriorated inlet filters and ensure that inlet protection is installed in a manner that allows for overflow into the inlet. A different type of inlet filter may be suggested to prevent flooding.



Please feel free to contact Andrea Moreno, the Watershed Management Division's Stormwater Inspector at (843)706-4581 or amoreno@townofbluffton.com should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support and implementation of the Town of Bluffton's Stormwater Management Program.