Storm Drain Inlet Protection

Recommended BMPs for Small Construction Sites

Storm drain inlet protection measures are temporary and should be implemented before disturbance. A fabric barrier around an inlet provides a shield against sediment, while allowing water to flow into the drain. Storm drain control structures must be maintained frequently. Check all temporary control measures after each storm event.

Sod Inlet Protection

For permanent inlet protection after the surrounding area has been stabilized, sod can be installed. This permanent measure is an aesthetically pleasing way to slow stormwater near drop inlet entrances and to remove sediments and other pollutants from runoff.

Do not consider sod inlet protection until the entire surrounding drainage area is stabilized. Lay the sod so that it extends at least 4 feet from the inlet in each direction to form a continuous mat around the inlet. Lay the sod strips perpendicular to the direction of flows. Stagger them so that the strip ends are not aligned.

Mesh bag, filled with #2 stone and large mulch

Wasted Money $$$$$$$$

- Straw bales do not work well in areas with heavy rain or on sites with large drainage areas or steep slopes. Straw bales should never be used on streets or sidewalks as they cannot be properly staked into concrete or asphalt and will float away.

- Check dams are relatively small, temporary structures constructed across a swale or channel. They are used to slow the velocity of concentrated water flows, a practice that helps reduce erosion. As stormwater runoff flows through the structure, the check dam catches sediment from the channel itself or from the contributing drainage area.

- Geotextiles can be used in various ways for erosion control on construction sites. Use them as matting to stabilize the flow of channels or swales or to protect seedlings on recently planted slopes until they become established. They can also be used as a separator between riprap and soil, which prevents the soil from being eroded from beneath the riprap and maintains the riprap’s base.

- Grass lined channels should not receive direct sedimentation from disturbed areas. The channel should be constructed and vegetated before other grading begins. Consider covering the bare soil with sod, mulches with netting, or geotextiles to provide reinforced stormwater conveyance immediately.

Questions or comments? Email us at: tcecil@msdeng.com, or call 765-749-1114

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